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Ann Arbor Observer

December 2021

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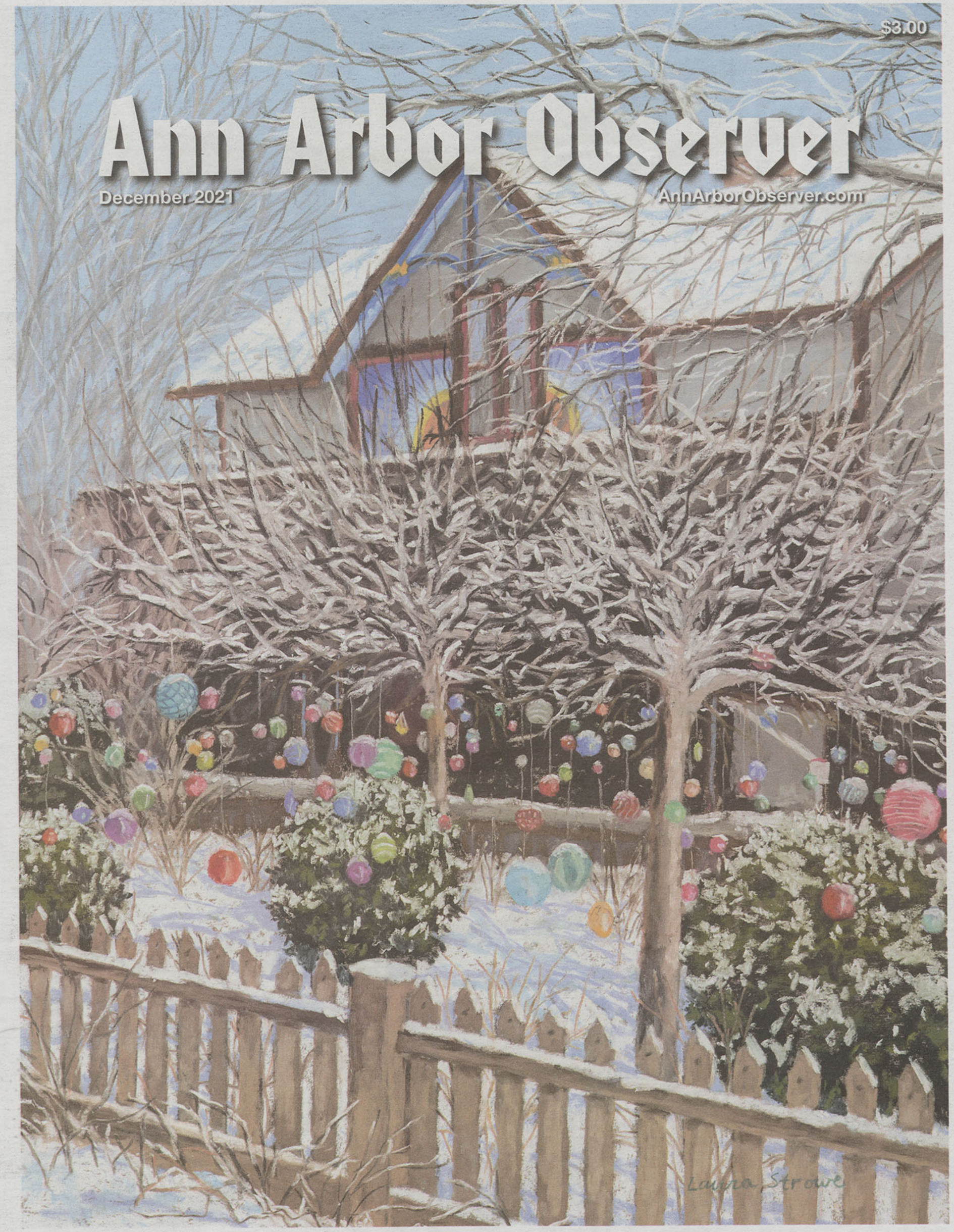

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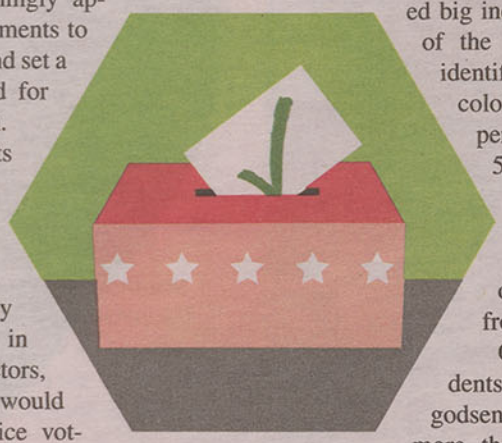
UpFront

Charter changes: The more than 18,000 Ann Arborites who voted in November overwhelmingly approved four amendments to the city charter—and set a new turnout record for an off-year election.

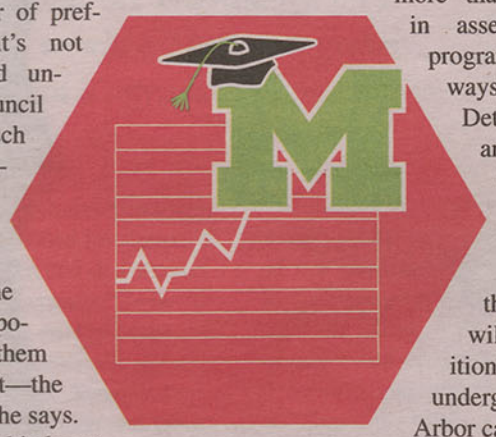


Two amendments simply bring the charter up to date with current policy. But Proposal A will give the city wider discretion in choosing contractors, and Proposal B would enable ranked-choice voting—if and when Lansing allows it.

Prop A, "best value purchasing," will let the city consider factors like a company's location and the wages it pays when awarding contracts. A coalition of unions spent $35,000 promoting the measures, says Laborers' Union state advocacy director Robert Joerg, because "we want people that are from Washtenaw County working on Ann Arbor city projects."

Councilmembers Jen Eyer and Travis Radina, who cosponsored the proposal, are now working with staff to rewrite the city's contracting guidelines. "We didn't want the entire construction season next year to go by under the old rules," says Eyer.

Prop B would let voters rank multiple candidates in order of preference. Though it's not currently permitted under state law, council cosponsor Lisa Disch hopes it will pressure Lansing to reconsider. "The more public support builds—the more we make it politically costly for them not to approve it—the better off we are," she says.



Prop B also got a big boost from outside money: $25,000 from Rank MI Vote, a chapter of the national group Unite America. Executive director Ron Zimmerman agrees there's "zero" chance the current legislature will change the law based on Ann Arbor's votes, but he hopes we'll have reinforcements soon: he says their plan is to get a "half-dozen cities or so" to approve ranked-choice voting, "and then we'll start thinking about taking it statewide."

50,000 students: The U-M enrolled 50,278 undergrad, grad, and professional students this fall—an all-time record.

It didn't just happen. "We offered more than 1,000 online events and created new programs," emails Rick Fitzgerald, the U-M's associate VP for public affairs. "We held dedicated recruiting and admission events across our state." It also helped that "admitted students chose to come to U-M at higher rates than in the past."

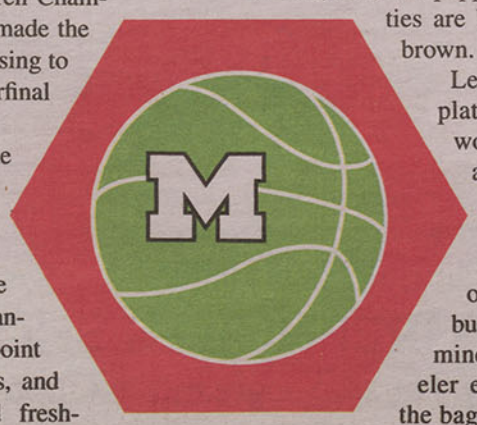
Minority enrollment reported big increases: 37 percent of the first-year students identified as students of color, including 8.4 percent as Latinx and 5.1 percent as black. And for the first time ever, more students are from out of state than from Michigan.

Out-of-state students are a financial godsend, because they pay more than three times as much as Michigan residents. In the past, though, legislators objected to increasing their numbers, for fear they would crowd out the in-state students.

With overall enrollment rising and more financial aid for Michigan students, that no longer seems to be an issue. Fitzgerald reports that 70 percent of Michigan undergrads now get some financial assistance.

Most prominently, the Go Blue Guarantee provides free tuition for high-achieving, in-state, full-time undergrads with family incomes below $65,000 and no more than $50,000 in assets. Another program, Wolverine Pathways, helps students in Detroit, Southfield, and Ypsilanti prepare for admission, and covers the tuition of successful grads. This year, the two programs will cover the full tuition of more than 3,000 undergrads on the Ann Arbor campus.

The Howard Effect: Last year, most observers picked Michigan's men's basketball team to finish in the middle of the Big Ten. Instead, Juwan Howard led the remnants of John Beilein's last team, two grad transfers, and frosh center Hunter Dickinson to a Big Ten Championship and nearly made the NCAA Final Four, losing to UCLA in the quarterfinal by two points.



Since then, the team has lost five of its top nine players to graduation or the pros. To plug the gaps, Howard has another grad transfer, point guard DeVanté Jones, and six highly regarded freshmen, most notably five-star forwards Caleb Houstan and Moussa Diabaté. In early games, he's been playing Jones and senior captain Eli Brooks in the back court, Dickinson at center, and Houstan and senior Brandon Johns Jr. at forward. Diabaté and soph Terrance Williams round out the ordinary rotation.

No one is undervaluing the Wolverines this year: as the Observer went to press, most polls had Michigan ranked about sixth in the country. That may be an overcorrection. Howard and his staff have proved they can coach, but any team losing so many players will have growing pains, and some were on display in a mid-November buzzer loss to Seton Hall.

Kim Barnes Arico's women made the NCAA Final 16 last year, a first in the program's history; the Wolverines also boast their first All-American in center Naz Hillmon. They started 3–0 against tepid competition, but in the process lost starting guard Amy Dilk and their best shooter, Leigha Brown, to injuries. Pending their return, the women's prospects are problematic. Stay tuned.

Salmon standout: There are plenty of salmon burgers around, and Arbor Farms' is not the cheapest—a pack of two costs about $13. But as a returned traveler discovered after a long day in the air, even eaten cold out of the plastic bag, it can be heavenly—as subtle and satisfying as a home-cooked meal.

What makes Arbor Farms' burger stand out from the crowd? Kitchen manager Elizabeth Lewis says it was already on the menu when she arrived ten years ago, but she thinks the recipe may have originated with a chef from Finland who was "our fish guy" at the time. It hasn't changed since, she says, and neither has its popularity—"it's one of our top sellers."

The recipe includes fresh salmon, coarsely chopped in a food processor; challah breadcrumbs; eggs; capers; lemon zest; salt, and pepper. The ample patties are baked until golden brown.

Lewis prefers hers plated. "I definitely wouldn't eat it like a burger," she says. "I would eat [it] as an entrée, maybe with an aioli. No bread. No bun." But she doesn't mind if a hungry traveler eats it right out of the bag. ■

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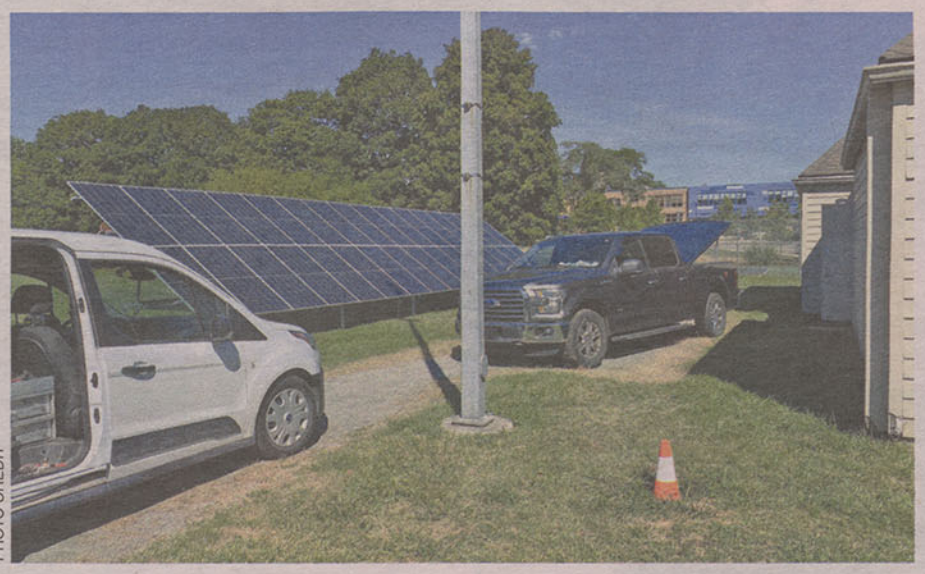


PHOTO CREDIT

This north-side solar installation may soon have a lot of company if the city goes ahead with a plan to create its own green-energy utility.

When world leaders met in Glasgow in early November to grapple with the accelerating climate crisis, there was lots of talk about the urgent need for action. Ann Arbor committed to action two years earlier. In November 2019, city council called for "a just transition to community-wide carbon neutrality by the year 2030."

The city formally launched "A2NetZero" the following year. Now it's considering creating its own "sustainable energy utility" (SEU) to generate and distribute clean energy.

Developed over the past nine months by the city's office of sustainability and innovations (OSI), the plan was introduced at a public meeting in late October and in presentations to city council and the energy commission in November. It would create a publicly-owned municipal utility that would start out by building "microgrids" to let residents and businesses share energy from new solar panels and geothermal sources. Eventually, they would all be tied together in a citywide system.

The SEU would start out building "microgrids" to share energy from new solar panels and geothermal sources. Eventually, they would all be tied together in a citywide system.

OSI manager Missy Stults won't take sole credit for the proposed revolution in local energy production and distribution. "I just collected bread crumbs" from two presentations at an energy commission meeting last March, she says. The SEU plan took shape during subsequent conversations with tech and labor consultants.

Those talks resulted in a thorough report that's now available online (tinyurl.com/AnnArborSEU). As the document notes, "It's not your parents'—or your grandparents'—kind of utility." Instead of a few giant power plants, it would finance and install many rooftop solar panels on local homes and businesses, store the energy collected from them in batteries, and run wires to neighbors. Later, it could also share geothermal energy from underground pipes. SEU customers could choose to retain DTE as a backup, at least through 2030.

Building Ann Arbor's own utility while staying connected to DTE at least for a while would avoid two major problems, Stults says. The utility's infrastructure is old, vulnerable, and in need of major and expensive upgrades; local generation and storage should be more resilient if the utility's grid goes down. And by not trying to force DTE to sell its poles and wires, the city hopes to avoid the prolonged and expensive litigation that greatly complicated "municipalization" efforts in Winter Park, Florida, and Boulder, Colorado.

"We want to work collaboratively with [DTE]," Stults says. If the city falls short of its 2030 goal, she says, the city could buy additional "green" energy from the private company or other sources.

Stults's team is now working to estimate how much it would cost to create an SEU, and what rates it might charge. The next formal step would be for the city to adopt an SEU ordinance; Stults guesses this might happen as early as the second quarter of 2022.

The biggest challenge will be finding the money to build a new generation and distribution system. An environmental millage Mayor Taylor is bringing forward next spring could help with that. Other possible avenues include borrowing, which would require a public vote on a bond; grant funding; or some kind of public-private partnership.

If all goes as planned, the first step would be launching microgrids in an area where there is strong interest. That's likely to be the low-income Bryant neighborhood, because OSI has already been working with residents there on energy issues. Another proving ground could be the proposed Veridian development at County Farm Park.

Chelsea and other Michigan cities have municipal utilities, and Delaware and Washington, DC, have SEUs that help individuals pay for clean energy upgrades. But Ann Arbor's is envisioned to do much more. If it works, it could spur other cities to launch similarly ambitious climate mitigation efforts.

1528 Pontiac Tr.

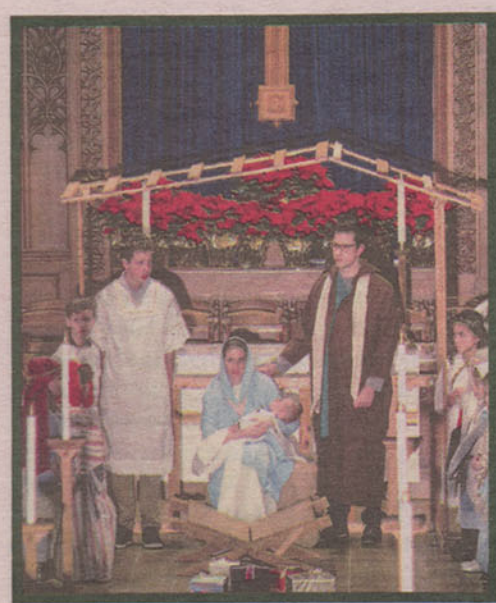
The African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County is open at last.

More than 100 people turned out for its grand opening in a historic home at the corner of Pontiac Tr. and John A. Woods Dr.—the only street in Ann Arbor named for an African American.

The event was the culmination of work that's been underway since 1993. President and CEO Joyce Hunter says the project began with a talk that year by Margaret T. Burroughs, founder of Chicago's DuSable Museum of African American History. Burroughs challenged county residents to start a museum of their own, and Hunter and seventeen other local educators, professionals, and community leaders responded.

For generations, African Americans in Washtenaw County had shared their history by word of mouth, through church programs, and at family reunions. The founders immediately began collecting artifacts and interviewing older residents to capture those stories. But until now, "we were a museum without walls," says board chair Debby Mitchell Covington.

"Knowing your history is critical for your overall well-being," says Covington. "Especially in this time and culture where there is a movement to erase Black History."



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COURTESY AAHCM

A challenge fulfilled: the museum's founders began working on its collection in 1993, but operated without a permanent home until now.

In addition to the oral history project—the latest interviews were posted online at aachm.com in November—the museum without walls organized art exhibits, a film series in partnership with the Michigan Theater, and tours of Underground Railroad sites.

Now it finally has walls, too: a home that the Mosaic Foundation rescued from demolition downtown and is renting to the museum. The airy interior is decorated with quilts, a church pew, photos, and artwork.

AAHCM@1528, an exhibit on themes of community identity and legacy by six artists with local roots, runs through December 18.

"Knowing your history is critical for your overall well-being," says board chair Debby Mitchell Covington. "Especially in this time and culture where there is a movement to erase Black History."

WCC Pulls Through

The pandemic hit community colleges hard, but WCC is doing better than most.

When the shutdown order came in March of 2020, "we went immediately virtual," recalls Washtenaw Community College faculty union president Julie Kissel. When she finally returned more than a year later, "all of the old newspapers were still there. Everything was starting to look postapocalyptic."

Though many classes remain virtual, this fall 40 percent of students are attending class in person. While it's been "satisfying to connect again with the students who are on campus and chat with my colleagues when I can," Kissel emails, things are "not even close" to normal yet: "There are voices in the halls and students in many classrooms, but it is on a very small scale … much like campus during the late evenings pre-Covid."

The rest are in virtual classes. WCC has offered online classes since 2013, and currently has more than 100. Kissel says many faculty "are finding that there are many aspects of their jobs, from teaching to advising, that can be done effectively in a virtual format … We've discovered some really great things for connecting with certain populations of our students."

Instead of office hours, Kissel is meeting students at the campus writing center. "Many others use their classrooms before or after class to have meetings," she writes. "The College is working to create and identify more of these spaces as the last of faculty and staff working remotely will return to campus in January." At that point, the administration and the union have agreed, those faculty members still working remotely will be back at least three days a week.

Nationally, community college enrollment is down 14 percent since the start of the pandemic. By comparison, WCC's less than 5 percent decline is a win. And though the school's revenue fell $2.6 million last year, media relations director Fran LeFort emails, "lower operating expenses resulting from remote operations the past year helped to offset the reduction." That allowed the school to freeze tuition for the fourth straight year.

"We have a solid reputation, and we're able to be creative with our delivery methods as well," Kissel says. "So we've been able to be stable and even grow in some areas of our general education class, especially sciences and math courses … they're gangbusters."

WCC has lost some employees to retirements and program closures—the once-successful culinary arts program is being phased out, and the childcare center has closed—but new hiring has kept the faculty ranks filled. Since September, the college has hired approximately fifty full- and part-time new professional faculty.

A big part of the reason for the school's financial stability is its countywide property tax millage, which provides almost half the school's budget. "Other community colleges don't have

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2021—A YEAR OF TRANSITION & IMPACT

Thank you, greater Ann Arbor, for the broad and ongoing support of AAACF!

- We began the year commemorating successful completion of a 2016-2020 strategic plan for increasing AAACF's impact across Washtenaw County, including highlights:
  - Providing more than $2 million in COVID grants (and nearly another million in 2021!)
  - Serving as the largest grantmaker for older adults among MI community foundations, including innovative approaches through the Glacier Hills Legacy Fund
  - Issuing more than $1 million to 60 students through the Community Scholarship Program, with early cohorts graduating from college this year
  - The Stern Nonprofit Challenge (the Stern Legacy Challenge is still underway!) resulting in 50 nonprofit organizations benefitting from $1 million in new permanent nonprofit endowment funds matched with $500,000

- The AAACF Board of Trustees and staff continued developing a new five-year strategic plan, based on Core Values established in Fall 2020 toward this **2026 Vision: AAACF will be a trusted philanthropic resource driving systemic change in Washtenaw County.**

- This fall, we shared more original research we commissioned; read more or request a copy at aaacf.org.
- We searched for a new leader to continue our impact in 2022 and beyond.

As we transition to another year, we remain committed to our role as our community's endowment, a "canopy" forever covering Washtenaw County with support across the local nonprofit sector.

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MARK BIALEK

With enrollment at community colleges down an average of 14 percent during the pandemic, WCC's less than 5 decline is a win. About 40 percent of students are back in person this fall.

anything like what we have in terms of the millage funding," says Kissel. "People are very, very jealous of that millage."

After years of acrimonious disputes between the union and the administration, Kissel reports that the union is "satisfied" with the administration's handling of the pandemic. "The relationships that we have been able to establish [are positive] so that we can work through the issues at hand.

"That doesn't mean we agree on everything, and sometimes, on some issues, it doesn't even seem like we agree on anything. [But] we continue to have the conversations and try to get to an end result that will be good for as many people as possible."

American Rescue Plan

The city and the county are getting almost $100 million from Washington. What will they do with it?

"We call it the *Washtenaw County* Rescue Plan," laughs county board chair Sue Shink. "It's the federal government's effort to help our communities recover from Covid and to recover strong and to make ourselves more resilient going forward."

Strong is the word. The county is getting $71 million from the $1.9 trillion program—more than half the county's current annual budget of $126 million. "We got the first $35 million [this past May and the rest] two years from May," Shink continues.

"We're getting $24.2 million," says Ann Arbor assistant city administrator John Fournier, almost a quarter of the city's current $114 million budget. "The money has to be allocated by the end of 2024, and it has to be completely spent by the end of 2026."

Council asked staff for recommendations, and they came back with $41 million worth of projects based on prior council resolutions. Affordable housing tops the list, followed by environmental sustainability, bike lanes, more solar panels on city buildings, and continuing a project to replace galvanized pipes in the city's system.

They'll also be looking at funding the city's community policing initiatives and a proposal to send an unnamed response team to some emergency calls in place of the AAPD. "Council directed us [to] spend the summer studying the issue and then come back with a lot more detail about where the city is on unarmed response," Fournier explains. "We'll have a memo to council on December first with some preliminary recommendations on it."

The county's top priority is expanding broadband Internet access. "We allocated $14.6 million [in September] to building out broadband to every resident in our county who isnot already served by broadband," says Shink. "We also allocated $800,000 to support broadband affordability [for residents]. If we find that that $800,000 isn't enough, we will be in a position to allocate more.

"People who don't have broadband have trouble functioning remotely," Shink

MARK BIALEK

Assistant city adminsitrator John Fournier says staff will have preliminary spending recommendations to council on December 1.

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explains. "There's a map that shows where there are pockets of low service, and they're really sprinkled throughout the county, particularly in the southwestern portion of the county."

Like Manchester. "While the other school districts were shifting to remote learning at the beginning of the pandemic, they just shut down school because they didn't have the capacity to do class remotely," Shink reports. "So many of the families didn't have adequate broadband to download lessons [that the schools] were providing Internet that was strong enough so that families would sit in their cars in the parking lot and the kids would do their homework."

Broadband would also allow more folks to work remotely. As Shink says, "It'll be a real game changer for the economy of the areas that have a large gap in broadband connectivity."

The county has also already allocated $6.7 million for children's savings accounts to encourage kids to go to college or trade school. And since most of the county's public health budget has been spent on the pandemic for the last two years, the county plans to fill some public health holes with ARP money and expects to have a proposal ready before the end of the year.

The county and the city are extremely grateful for the money. "Beginning with the Reagan years and continuing really until now, the federal government has really, really pared back the funding that they offer to state and local governments until it has become virtually nonexistent," Fournier says.

"It is a very rare occurrence that the federal or state government provides large chunks of money to local government."

PHOTO CREDIT

Dave Siglin and his wife Linda outside the Ark's original Hill St. location in 1974. By the time Siglin retired in 2008, he'd recorded well over 3,000 hours of music from 1,600 shows.

Ark Legacy Project

When Dave Siglin was hired in 1969 to run the Ark, he didn't expect to be there long.

"I figured I'd be there for a year," he recalls. But listening to the concerts there night after night, he soon realized, "I have to make copies of these shows. This is a once-in-a-lifetime thing."

So he began asking performers for permission to tape. Most, but not all, said yes. "I remember when Joe Heaney [the famed Irish traditional singer] came to the Ark. He said, 'I don't want any tape recorders. Nobody can tape.' And I said, 'fine.' So, we didn't tape the show. And when I was driving him to the airport, he said, 'Did you tape the show?' I said, 'no.' He said, 'Why not?' I said, 'Well, you said nobody could tape.' He said, 'Well, I didn't mean you!' "

Siglin continued asking, and performers "said, 'Yeah, go ahead.' Well, we [Siglin and his wife, Linda, who ran the Ark with him] never left, and I just kept doing it." He saved every recording he made, though occasionally he would tape over a show to record another performance, "If the show had been … you know … bad. There were not very many of those."

At one point, in 1995, much of the collection was nearly destroyed. The tapes were in boxes in the basement of the Siglins' home when their water heater broke and flooded the basement. All the reel-to-reel tapes were soaked, along with many of the cassettes.

Luckily, he had a restoration connection through Grace Morand of the Chenille Sisters: "Her husband, Tom Hogarth, worked as a conservator at the university," Siglin says. "He took all those tapes, they dried them off, gave them back to me, and he said, 'Now these can only be played once. After that, the drop-off will be enormous.' "

"I never stopped recording shows," says Siglin. "I was making these recordings to listen to later on, and of course I never thought, 'How am I ever going to listen to all these recordings? It would take the rest of my life!' "

Siglin's plan to manage the Ark for one year turned into forty, and by the time he retired in 2008, he'd accumulated more than 350 reel-to-reel tapes, plus somewhere between 1,100 and 1,200 cassettes, totaling well over 3,000 hours of music from more than 1,600 shows.

Because many of the performers in the early days of the Ark were traditional musicians with few or no recordings, the tapes preserved their work for posterity. Later, when the Ark began also featuring singer-songwriters, who did have recordings, the tapes captured their live shows, introductions, anecdotes, and interactions with their audiences. Because the Ark booked a veritable who's who of folk musicians, the collection preserves a unique take on the growth and development of American roots and folk music over a period of more than three decades.

In 2009, Siglin donated all the tapes,

At one point, in 1995, much of the collection was nearly destroyed. When the Siglins' water heater broke and flooded the basement, all the reel-to-reel tapes were soaked, along with many of the cassettes.

cassettes, photos, posters, monthly schedule postcards, and other Ark material to the U-M's Bentley Historical Library. His goal was then, and continues to be, to have the entire collection digitized and made available as an online resource for scholars, students, and fans of the music. "These tapes are a history," says Siglin. "And I think that's very important."

In 2010 the Siglin Music Preservation Fund was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to raise funds to complete the Ark Legacy Project. Since then, a pilot program has been initiated, with U-M School of Information students working under the direction of Prof. Paul Conway. The project has already had multiple phases, including graduate class projects, an Mcubed interdisciplinary project, a REMS summer project, and a doctoral student research project.

To date about sixty reel-to-reel tapes have been digitized—and as Hogarth promised, all survived the transition. Samples are already available on arklegacyproject.org, along with photos of performers and links to articles about its history. Musician Annie Capps designed and maintains the site and is continuing to upload music to it.

To finish the rest and do all the other work to complete the project, Siglin estimates the fund will need to raise at least $70,000. "We have not approached any major donors yet," he says. "We're about to go into that phase."

"This project is going to be a treasure for all music enthusiasts, performers, music historians, and audiences," says Kate Whitaker, longtime Ark board member and treasurer of the Siglin Fund.

"I loved watching other people perform and do great, and I loved watching the audience enjoy it," says Siglin, now seventy-nine. "And that's what it's all about. It's the music."

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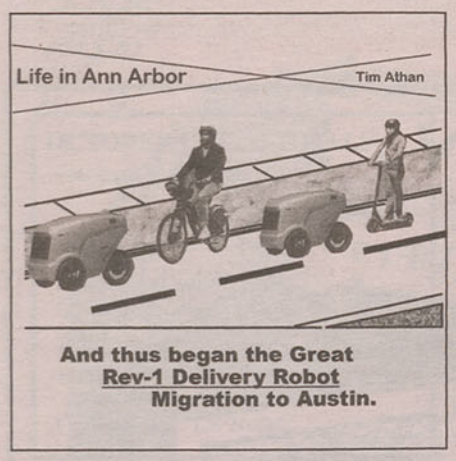

And thus began the Great Rev-1 Delivery Robot Migration to Austin.

question corner

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Got a question? Email question@aaobserver.com.

calls & letters

EV Pioneers

"I read with great interest your [November] article on EVs," Joanna Schultz emailed. "My husband and I bought a used Fiat 500e about a year ago and although we love our zippy little EV, we've encountered two issues your article didn't address."

The first was a problem that kept the battery from fully charging. The second that the nearest Fiat mechanic certified to work on electric cars "is over an hour and a half away in any direction."

In "trial and error fashion," Schultz writes, the couple hired an electrician to install a high-speed charger and "solve some 'flow' issues" in their household current." They "still have times occasionally when the charging stops mid-charge and we have to scramble a bit to get it going again," she writes—but so far, they've "managed to avoid any trips to a Fiat 500e mechanic."

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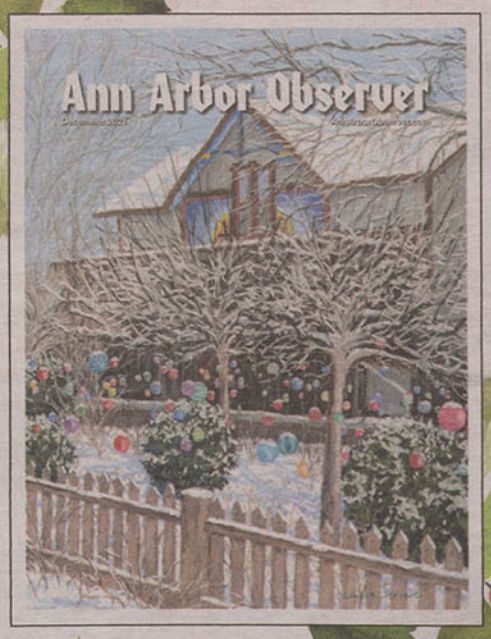

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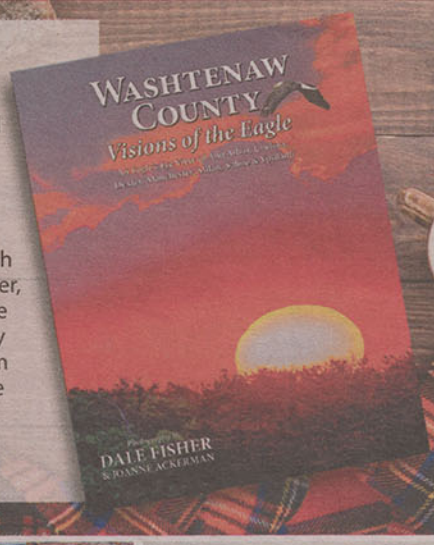

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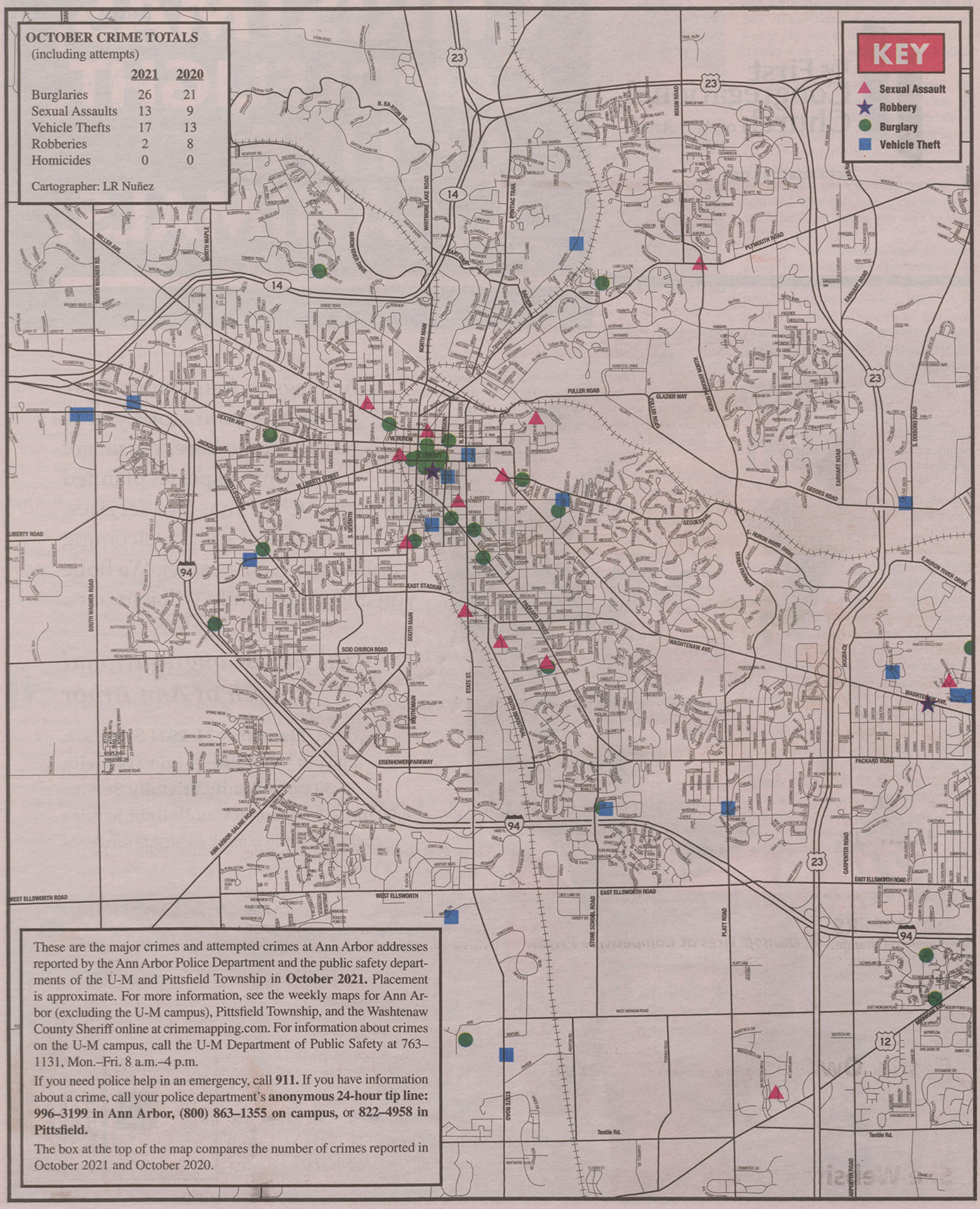
CrimeMap



OCTOBER CRIME TOTALS
(including attempts)

	2021	2020
Burglaries	26	21
Sexual Assaults	13	9
Vehicle Thefts	17	13
Robberies	2	8
Homicides	0	0

Cartographer: LR Nuñez

These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **October 2021.** Placement is approximate. For more information, see the weekly maps for Ann Arbor (excluding the U-M campus), Pittsfield Township, and the Washtenaw County Sheriff online at crimemapping.com. For information about crimes on the U-M campus, call the U-M Department of Public Safety at 763–1131, Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus,** or **822–4958 in Pittsfield.**

The box at the top of the map compares the number of crimes reported in October 2021 and October 2020.

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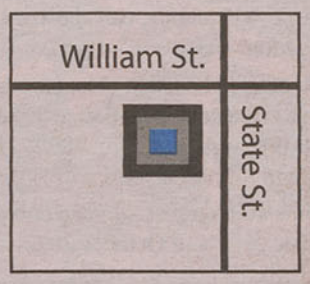


Phil D'Anieri

He's written the biography of the Appalachian Trail.

Phil D'Anieri sits by the front window of the downtown Sweetwaters in a baseball cap and glasses with his laptop and coffee at hand. For almost a decade he'd come here to work on his first book, *The Appalachian Trail: A Biography*—a project that began as a hobby and was published this summer. The *New York Times* calls it a "stalwart biography" and named it a recommended book of the week.

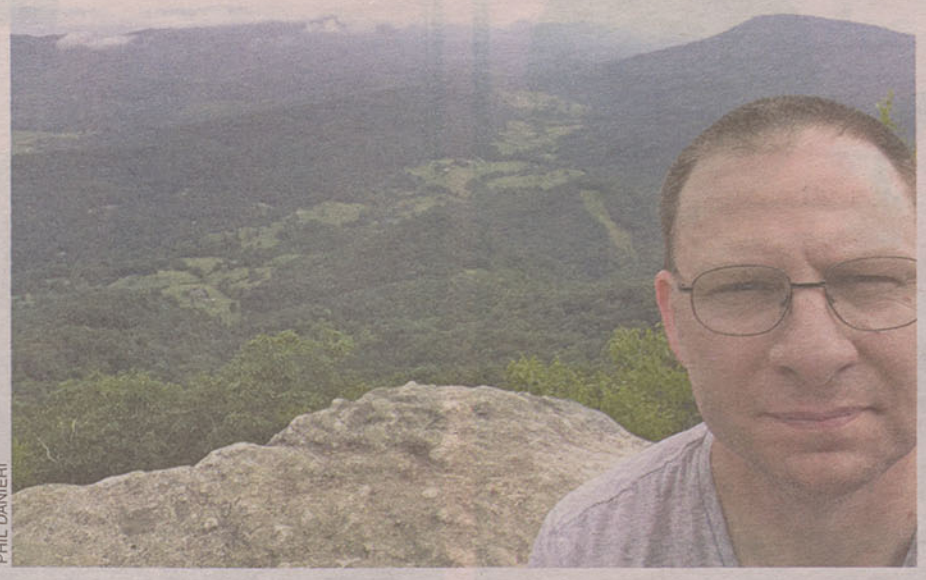
"It's only 270 pages, but for the time it took me it should be *War and Peace*," D'Anieri laughs. A U-M lecturer in urban and regional planning, D'Anieri, fifty-three, says he wanted to "write a book that I wanted to read," so he told the trail's story through its people, devoting each chapter to a different person who helped create the world's longest foot path.

For years D'Anieri dedicated his summers to learning about a new character, traveling to archives out east, or hiking a short portion of the trail for a day.

"Everyone assumed we knew everything about the trail," says U-M urban historian Robert Fishman, who taught D'Anieri when he was a doctoral student. "But he uncovers a remarkable amount of new information about the real making of the trail … the collective, grassroots efforts of obscure people and dedicated trailmakers."

D'Anieri grew up the youngest of five kids in Schenectady, New York, in a "classic postwar suburb." His mother was a housewife from Maine and his father, the son of Italian immigrants from Brooklyn, was a General Electric engineer and "frustrated historian" who wrote genealogy books after he retired. Once D'Anieri left home to get his political theory degree from MSU's James Madison College, he was in Michigan to stay.

D'Anieri "hopscotched" his way through a "sample platter of civic engagement" jobs after graduation: WDET Detroit radio news reporter, communications work with the Michigan State Senate, and program director for the Ann Arbor Community Foundation. He got his PhD in 2007 and became a full-time lecturer twelve years ago, the longest position he's held.



PHIL D'ANIERI

For almost a decade, D'Anieri explored the trail and researched the people who created it. He took this selfie atop McAfee Knob in Virginia.

"I knew I was not meant for the tenure track," he says—he "didn't fit into scholarly pigeon holes." Working as a lecturer pays the bills, and the students keep him engaged: "For all the drive that's on display at Michigan, there's still a lot of good old-fashioned curiosity, sincerity, and good intentions about how to find one's way in the world.

"There was a part of me as a younger person that genuinely imagined that if I got into that world of journalism or politics or policy or academia I could play a teeny-tiny role … in making the world a better place," he says. Instead, he became frustrated with the bureaucracy. "The people who do stay productively engaged I have a ton of respect for, because I just ran away," he says.

He describes himself as "pretty grouchy." D'Anieri's wife, Alicia Farmer, laughs at that description.

A fellow James Madison grad who graduated a year after him, Farmer had contacted him for an alumni project when she was working for the university and he was at the radio station. "The first time I met him I didn't like him at all," she says. "He had this gruff exterior. He was this New York guy—very direct." (Farmer is from Milan, Michigan.)

When he asked her out, she says, she quickly discovered a more thoughtful person underneath. They were engaged within two months and have been married for twenty-eight years. "Early on we decided it was pretty important to us to support each other on our personal journeys of self-discovery," says Farmer, who's a program manager for the U-M Biological Station.

As newlyweds, Farmer went through U-M law school while D'Anieri worked, and later she supported him as he studied for his PhD when their sons were young. James Farmer is now nineteen and a student at Case Western, and Avery Farmer, twenty-three, is in law school in Boston.

D'Anieri says he "didn't know a thing about publishing" and found an agent through an online search after most rejected him. The project sat for a couple years until 2018, when, worried he might lose his U-M job because of budget cuts, he decided it was time to "fish or cut bait." He polished up his book proposal, sent it out, and received multiple offers, signing a contract with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

"That was a good day," he says. He shared the news with Farmer when he picked her up from work on Central Campus. "We hooted and hollered a bit in the car on the way home," she says. D'Anieri received an advance of a "very pleasant sum, but not a change-your-lifestyle amount." They still have their one car, a 2017 Honda Fit, and mostly walk to work for their campus jobs.

As D'Anieri worked to finish his manuscript he tracked down a key subject, Bill Bryson, author of the A.T. classic *A Walk in the Woods*. Bryson invited him to Austin, Texas, where he was on his last book tour before retirement. D'Anieri hopped a flight and interviewed Bryson for a few hours in the lobby of his hotel. Bryson was "very gracious. But I still don't know if he's read it or not."

D'Anieri's served on the city parks commission and ran for the county board years ago, but grew weary of the "churn of the same old stuff … I've watched this movie of Ann Arbor planning controversies so many times I do not need to see the thirteenth sequel."

The "density versus suburbia" topic never goes away, he says. He would eliminate single family zoning like Minneapolis has and allow any lot to be turned into a duplex. "My ideal Ann Arbor would make more room for more people of more income levels," he says, and not "act like any other suburb to sort of wall off our privilege … Cities are at their best when they embrace their city-ness."

Though Covid killed the hopes of a normal book tour, he's done a few podcast interviews and virtual bookstore readings, including at Literati. He plans to write another book, and whatever the topic, he will make the research fun. And he'll keep coming back to Sweetwaters where he'll tap away on his keyboard and drink his favorite Midnight Blend.

—Shelley Daily

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Then & Now

Emmanuel Mann's Country Home

A heroic rescue saved the owner, but this historic home may be doomed.

MARK BIALEK

1006 S. Main from Google's Street View (above) and after the fire. With its square central tower, it was one of only two surviving "Italianate villas" in the city.

In October, Ann Arbor fire chief Mike Kennedy presented commendations to five people who'd rescued an elderly man from a burning house in September. The "civilian lifesaving awards" recognized three young men touring the town after a U-M football game, and a father and daughter on their way to the airport. Both groups spotted the fire on S. Main and stopped to help.

According to the *Ann Arbor News,* the men entered the home at 1006 S. Main and found Mike Gray unconscious. They dragged him outside, where the woman, a medical student, checked him out. Though the fire department was on the scene within four minutes of getting the call, Kennedy said, "had it been up to us to rescue Mr. Gray, I don't know that he would be with us here today."

The home had been in Gray's family since 1924, and he had lived there all his life (the paper gave his age as seventy-two). But its tall corner tower had looked out on S. Main for more than sixty years by the time the Grays arrived, and its deep setback from the street testifies to its antiquity: it was originally the country home of Emmanuel Mann, one of the founders of the Republican Party.

Most likely built in 1866, the house is one of only two surviving local examples of the "Italianate villa" style: an L formed by two rectangles, with

COURTESY ANN ARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Six other departments assisted the AAFD in fighting the September blaze.

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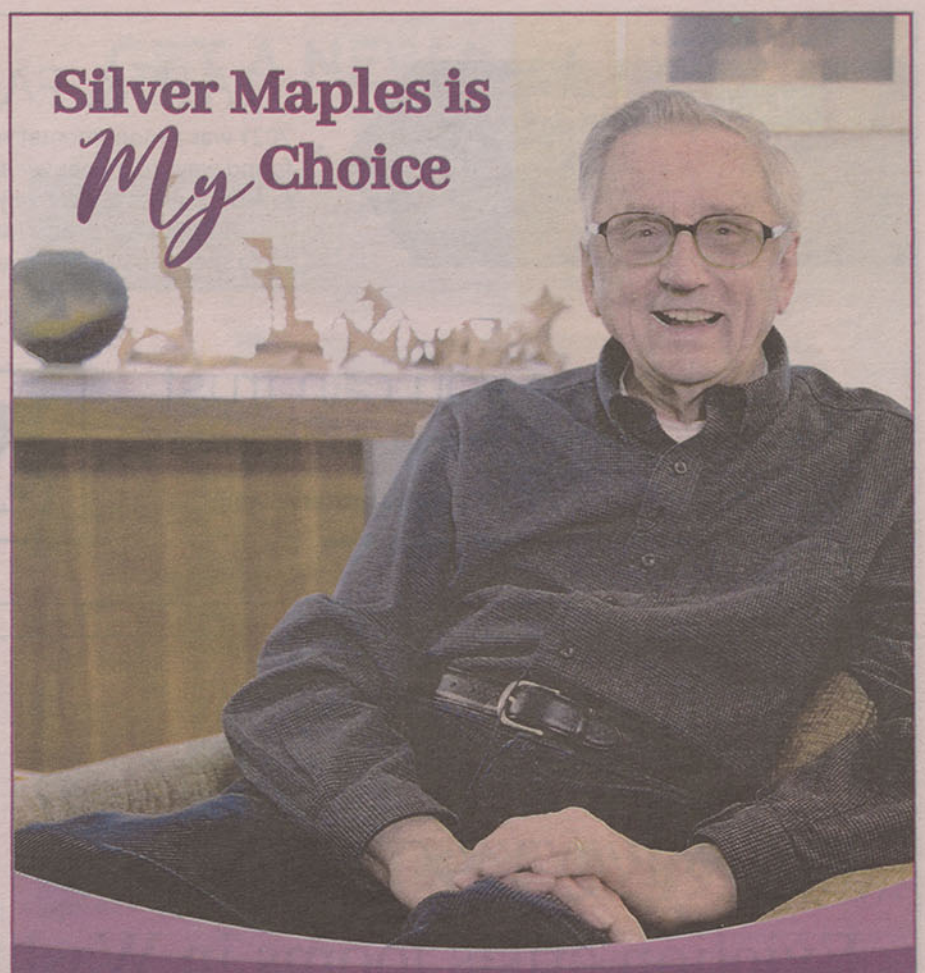

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2021 was a monumental year for Ann Arbor. Our community found ways to maneuver around the pandemic's challenges. New businesses collectively took chances to open their doors. But Ann Arbor also lost some of its favorite names. In a special issue of A2View, we'll salute and say goodbye.

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WINTER SURVIVAL CRISIS

Eviction crisis looms in Washtenaw County

Local renters could be homeless this winter

It's getting cold. And too many local renters could soon be evicted from their homes. Eviction fillings are on the rise in Washtenaw County this fall after the pandemic moratorium on evictions expired. An estimated 6,000 households in Washtenaw are at-risk of eviction due to unpaid rent. As the temperature drops, people are desperate to hang onto their housing.

"When they get evicted, many families have no choice but to live in their cars," says Rhonda Weathers, SOS Community Service's executive director. "Being homeless and living in your car is a hardship any time of year. But it's especially difficult and dangerous in the winter."

Thousands of Washtenaw County residents could be forced from their homes in the next few months. The pandemic is still raging and the frigid winter months are still ahead. People are desperate for help. They need rent, groceries, heat, and other basics necessary to survive.

You can make sure that people have the help they need to survive the eviction crisis. Please make a donation to prevent evictions and help families get back on their feet this winter.

"This morning, we woke up to find frost on the ground," said Weathers. "A woman called SOS in tears. She's so worried she will lose her apartment. She and her son have nowhere else to go."

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SOS community services

a square tower rising where they meet. Mann's was almost certainly inspired by the other—"Woodlawn," which his cousin and business partner, Christian Eberbach, had built a few years earlier off Packard.

Though not as grand as Eberbach's brick home, Mann's "was a beautiful house, lovingly cared for," recalls Tricia Kirkwood, who grew up nearby on First St. and was best friends with Mike Gray's sister Ellen. She remembers a huge fireplace in the basement, Victorian turned-wood trim, and "seeing the staircase to the tower, when I was upstairs playing in Ellen's room." She would have loved to explore it, but as far as she knew the family never went up there.

For generations, the family rented football parking on the home's enormous lawn. Tricia Kirkwood remembers how her late best friend, Ellen Gray, would stand out front on game days, with "her little money belt on, handling the cars and handling the crowd and making sure everyone got in and out safely."

Another Mann legacy, the enormous lot, was more useful: every fall, the Grays rented it out for football parking. Though Ellen had a career in financial operations at the U-M, game days would find her out front, with "her little money belt on, handling the cars and handling the crowd and making sure everyone got in and out safely," Kirkwood recalls. The family made enough money during the football season to pay their property taxes for the entire year.

Mann's and Eberbach's homes reflected their prominent roles in business and politics. Their business, Eberbach & Co. (on Main St. where Vinology is now), was a meeting place for politicians and the entire German community. Mann served on the school board, as an alderman, and in the state senate.

Eberbach was elected mayor, though only for one term. According to a memorial quoted in a 1994 Observer article, after his election in 1868 he made "a gallant fight to drive the hogs and cows from the streets, but the people believed the experience was contrary to the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution."

Both took part in founding the Republican Party; Mann was the new party's vice president at the "Under the Oaks" convention in Jackson in 1854. In 1860, Eberbach was a member of the electoral college that confirmed Abraham Lincoln's presidential victory.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS ANN ARBOR MICHIGAN VIA AADL

Emmanuel Mann's Main St. home seems to have been inspired by his cousin and business partner Christian Eberbach's east-side mansion, "Woodlawn."

Mann was just sixteen when he arrived from Germany in 1830 with his parents, Jonathan and Louise Mann. Trained as a tanner, he opened the city's first steam-powered tannery; after it was destroyed by fire, he went into business with Eberbach to manufacture pharmaceuticals and medical apparatus. (Eberbach Corporation, now based in Belleville, makes laboratory equipment to this day.) After some years he purchased a drugstore on Main St. that eventually passed to his sons, Albert and Eugene. As the Mann Brothers Drug Store, it operated well into the twentieth century.

In 1850, Mann built a stucco-over-brick Greek Revival house at the corner of Division and Liberty for himself and his wife, Anna Niethamer, and their children. Sold when they retired to the farm on Main, it still stands, though under threat of redevelopment.

Mann died in 1888 and is buried at Forest Hill Cemetery. A special notice in the *Ann Arbor Register* described him as "our long-time associate on the [cemetery's] Board," and lamented the "serious and great loss" of a "valuable and much esteemed associate."

Mann's widow, Anna, and daughter Emilie remained in the house until 1896, when the *Ann Arbor Argus* reported its sale to David Laubengayer for $6,000. In 1898, the year the city directories started listing house numbers, the address given was 1044 (the numbering system for S. Main seems to have changed many times.)

Laubengayer died in 1915. After his death, the address appears as 1006, with Frederick Levlitt, carpenter, in residence. Ora Gray and his wife Ida arrived in time for the 1924 city directory; Gray was listed as a salesman for the Hammond Beef Company, and later as assistant manager.

The 1940 census found Ora (listed as Orna) and Ida (listed as Iva) living at 1006 with their children Wyman, Willis, and Howard. Wyman and his wife Mary (Venton) Gray were the parents of Mike and Ellen.

"Ellen took care of her family," recalls Kirkwood, who's lived in Texas for many years but came back to Ann Arbor frequently until her mother's death four years ago. "She never married. She wanted to but she was so involved. First her father got sick, then her mother needed help—severe arthritis, I think, and maybe Alzheimer's, too."

After Gray's parents died, Kirkwood says, Ellen looked after her brother. "They didn't know what was wrong with him, they just said he was slow," she recalls. "He always worked, at laborer types of jobs, but Ellen told me in 2017 at my mom's funeral that he probably would have been diagnosed with Asperger's" today.

"He wasn't much for cooking and using the stove. He usually bought food and brought it home. So I was surprised [at reports that the fire] started in the kitchen. I'm kind of concerned about what happened to him."

Asked if he can share anything about Mike Gray's situation, fire chief Mike Kennedy messages, "I spoke with him, and he was recovering from injuries sustained during the incident. He has a social network that is assisting him, and he has living arrangements."

City records still list both Ellen and Michael Gray as owners of 1006 S. Main. The home, sadly, appears to be beyond repair.

"I'm sure that big lot is worth a lot of money," says Kirkwood. Given recent trends in the neighborhood, instead of game-day cars, it may one day house game-day condos.

If that happens, Ann Arbor will be left with just one Italianate villa. Most of Christian Eberbach's country property, like Emmanuel Mann's, was subdivided long ago, but his grand home still presides regally over what is now a hectic student neighborhood on Woodlawn Ave.

—Susan Wineberg & John Hilton

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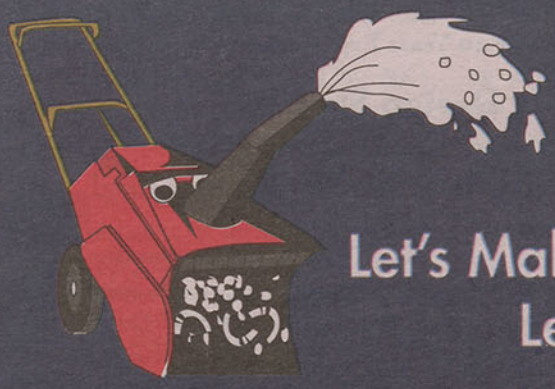

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THE NEXT UNICORN?

Workit Health's founders met in an AA meeting. Now they're halfway to a billion-dollar valuation.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Lisa McLaughlin (left) says she and Robin McIntosh set out to "spring addiction recovery programs out of the 1930s."

by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds

Workit Health is on a fast track to become only the third Ann Arbor–based "unicorn" (billion-dollar company) in the city's history, after Borders Books and Duo Security. It's an astounding achievement for a seven-year-old company.

It hasn't been easy. "We began offering a new model for addiction services at a time when opioid use had become a pandemic," says cofounder and co-CEO Lisa McLaughlin, but "getting the funding we needed at the beginning was *extremely* difficult.

"Economic studies show that only two percent of women entrepreneurs can raise adequate amounts of capital. We bootstrapped it for a year and a half before we got our first capital funding."

"It took us seven years to accomplish what men could have accomplished in two years," adds her cofounder and co-CEO, Robin McIntosh.

They turned to SPARK, Invest Detroit, and other economic development groups for guidance. First, Workit attracted an initial round of investment to develop their prototype into a scalable architecture.

In 2017, the National Science Foundation provided a grant to develop a "thrive-meter," which helps individuals identify success in addiction recovery. Two years later, the National Institute on Drug Abuse awarded Workit a contract to address social determinants of health in addiction care.

"And then the Covid-19 pandemic erupted," McLaughlin says. "Social isolation, stress, and financial hardships caused a mental health crisis. Health care was forced to make major shifts, among them the need to go online."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, by September 2020, depression levels in American adults had tripled. In the first full year of the pandemic, more than 100,000 Americans died from drug overdoses, an all-time high.

As demand for mental health services and telemedicine skyrocketed, states suspended requirements to see patients in person before writing prescriptions. That made it easier for Workit's professionals to prescribe Suboxone to help opioid users withdraw from dependency, Acamprosate for alcohol withdrawal, and Naltrexone for both, as well as several other medications. And insurers began paying for online therapy sessions.

"The key word is online," McLaughlin says. An Ann Arbor native and U-M grad, she works out of the company's headquarters on Washtenaw Ave. McIntosh, like McLaughlin a U-M grad, divides her time between California and Colorado.

With more people facing addictions, and more ways to reach them, Workit quadrupled its client numbers during the pandemic. With a footprint in ten states, "our current valuation is $500 million, which is halfway to unicorn status," says Kali Lux, vice president of marketing.

"We expect to be national by 2023, which will have us marching toward unicorn status very quickly."

The cofounders' lives have been as dramatic as their career success. They met in an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, and know the world, worries, and workings of addicts firsthand.

"Many of the women I've met on the path to recovery were blocked entrepreneurs who had misdirected that energy into their addiction," McLaughlin says. "There are a lot of parallels between drug addiction and entrepreneurship.

"Both require a high appetite for risk, the ability to put yourself out there without knowing how cold the water is going to be, and the ability to keep getting it done at all costs. People who use a lot of drugs are great at all these things."

With more people facing addictions, and more ways to reach them, Workit quadrupled its client numbers during the pandemic. In ten states now, it expects to be national by 2023.

McLaughlin's own drinking and drug use began early. By the time she was seventeen, friends and family members had staged the first of several interventions. "I had a rough adolescence and, as it turned out, an undiagnosed anxiety disorder, which is a common thread with addicts," she says. Still, she maintained strong enough grades and test scores to enroll in U-M, where she studied English literature while "using the whole time."

After graduation, her world shrank. "I got to the point where I was completely isolated," she says. "My life was very small. I worked at a local café, went back to my apartment, and drank. I lost all social connections."

But "several groups" refused to give up on her. An intervention finally worked, and "at twenty-two, I got sober, thanks to the local recovery community, a strong therapist, and the great outpatient services I had at Chelsea Arbor Treatment Center. And I became embedded in the recovery scene."

Instead of enrolling in law school, as she had once planned, she applied to the U-M School of Social Work. But when she canvassed victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans with predetermined questions, she realized they were irrelevant to people who had just lost their homes and everything they owned—"questions like how much their house was worth instead of how they were coping." Soon afterwards, she "stumbled" into a U-M seminar where participants were discussing the social impacts of information gathering.

"I was really blown away. And I knew that was the career for me." Realizing that she wanted to work in a "macro capacity," she dual-enrolled in the School of Information.

Following graduation and a move to the San Francisco Bay area, she launched a series of start-up companies in digital learning. And it was there, during an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, she met McIntosh.

Unlike her business partner, McIntosh came from a happy, stable family with two loving parents—"but both sides have a lot of alcoholism. That skipped a gen-

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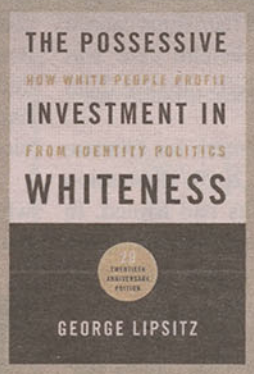
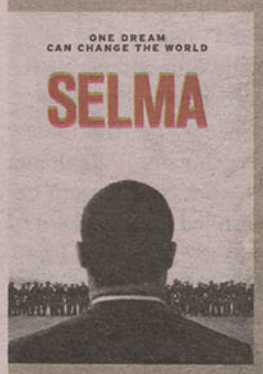
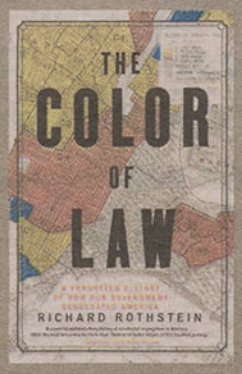
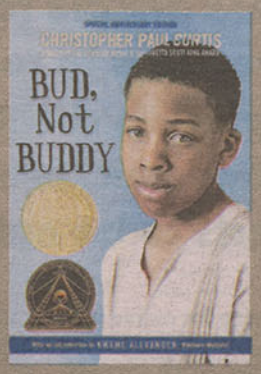


This series includes classic works and new ones, nonfiction, fiction, poetry, movies and music. This project recognizes that anti-Black racism is systemic and woven through the fiber of our society. As such, a broad variety of materials can be used to explore one's relationship to the theme. Past AADL Black Lives Matter Discussions are also available to watch at your convenience.







aadl.org/BLMdiscussionseries

eration and hit me—which is common," she says. When a trauma in her youth was paired with her deep genetic disposition, "I developed an eating disorder and began drinking," she says. "By the time I was twenty, my liver looked like the liver of a late-stage alcoholic."

A native of Canada, McIntosh enrolled in U-M's residential and honors colleges in 2003, with interdisciplinary studies in English, economics, art history, and creative writing, all the while struggling with "a horrendous bout" of alcoholism and the eating disorder. Her early college years

"We were losing too many fine people, way too fast, for way too long," McLaughlin says. "We came to believe there must be a better way to help people with addictions."

were memorable for how much time she didn't spend on campus—forty-five days in rehab, then a relapse. She entered a detox center in Florida, was admitted to hospitals several times during relapses, then entered another detox center in California. "I was in eight different places, either in-patient or as an outpatient," she says.

McIntosh left campus her junior year but managed to continue her studies long-distance and graduate with her class in 2007.

She attributes her recovery to the interaction of several factors: "AA in concert with effective anti-addiction medications, a great psychiatrist who really changed my life, and a really good support team: a nutritionist, therapist, and all of the friends I made in recovery." She adds, "In California everyone I knew was in recovery—you could find an AA meeting on every corner."

But many addicts they knew never achieved a lasting recovery. And many of those people died.

"We were losing too many fine people, way too fast, for way too long," McLaughlin says. "We came to believe there must be a better way to help people with addictions."

"Lisa comes from a science background," McIntosh recalls, "and I come from a design background.

"Late in November 2014, we sat down to brainstorm ideas we could work on together. By January 1, 2015, we had incorporated Workit Health. We both had friends who had passed away from overdoses, and we said, 'Enough is enough.' "

McLaughlin says they wanted to "spring addiction recovery programs out of the 1930s and bring them into the twenty-first century." After consulting with experts and processing their own experiences, they concluded that a program with a "discreet, confidential, individual approach" was a better option.

"The traditional system of addiction recovery was imperfect and in some aspects obsolete," McLaughlin says. "It could also be expensive, judgmental, and difficult to find or enter at the moment someone needed help."

"Expensive rehabs often don't offer the gold standard of treatment," Lux adds. "Less than 30 percent of treatment centers treating opioid addiction offer FDA-approved medication.

"They briefly detox their patients and then release them, ultimately increasing their risk of overdose if they do use again. The latest research shows that clinical expertise and therapeutic interventions, accessible in real time when you need them, is best."

Traditional recovery programs offer two options, McLaughlin says: on the wagon or off the wagon. Workit offers four: prevention, moderation, abstinence from addictive behaviors, and counseling services for friends and family—all remotely and on demand.

"Lisa and I work so well together," McIntosh says. "We are both entrepreneurial, and our skills are complementary. She comes from a science background, with experience in fundraising and business development. I come from a design background, with experience in business strategy, finances, marketing, and design.

"We trust each other completely. We've been through boyfriends, marriages, children, and business start-ups together. We talk every day for two or three hours. We are really decisive together."

As Workit's business accelerated, their funding problems receded. In October, Insight Partners, one of the top ten venture capitalist firms in the U.S., led a $118 million investment round, with participation from CVS Health, FirstMark Capital, BCBS Venture Fund, and 3L Capital. Workit also developed a partnership with Aetna to provide substance-use care.

"We're at the forefront of this new field of digital substance-use intervention, and we're leading the field in research and development," McLaughlin says.

The company's professionals perform telemedicine visits and prescribe medications for substance use, psychiatric issues, and primary care. Others offer a variety of talk therapies, one-on-one, in groups, and through chatrooms, all online. Workit also provides remote drug testing and monitoring; 800 interactive therapeutic courses, and screening for mental health and other issues.

"The outcomes we're seeing are just the tip of the iceberg as we continue to expand our program," McLaughlin says.

Recently they've added help for clients struggling with gambling, smoking, chronic pain, disordered eating, sex, and pornography. They also address related issues, among them psychiatric and primary care problems, anxiety, depression, hepatitis C, and PreEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis against HIV infection).

Some who have struggled with addiction eye Workit's approach warily. "I owe my life to AA. It works," says Brett Talbott, a former salesman who is writing a book about his addiction and recovery.

"I don't care if the program is rooted in the 1930s, it offers timeless wisdom. It's the simplest and most difficult program in the world—it tells members 'All you have to do is stop drinking,' "

On the other hand, adds his wife Mary, he reached the point several times when he needed to go into rehab immediately and none was available: "So I would have to go out and buy him a bottle to delay his detox symptoms until he was in a place where professionals could handle it. That was agonizing for me. I definitely see the value of the 24/7 on-call, online program."

The Talbotts recently moved from the Ann Arbor area to a remote home on Lake Michigan four hours north, and Brett admits he has had trouble finding and attending far-flung AA meetings—"I'm grateful I wasn't living up here at the time I started my recovery," he admits. (Workit's strongest client base is located in rural areas, far from recovery centers and AA meetings.)

Though her company offers other paths, McLaughlin herself is abstinent. "The painful truth for those of us who are hardwired to [require] abstinence is that many among us can moderate their actions very well," she says. "Sixty percent of young people grow out of risky use … But I'm not one of them."

Both of the co-CEOs have started families. When McLaughlin's husband was hired as assistant professor in U-M Department of Economics, the couple returned to McLaughlin's hometown, where they are raising three young children.

McIntosh married an executive in San Francisco's tech world, and the couple divides their time between homes in the Bay Area and Colorado as they await the birth of their second child.

Workit Health, meanwhile, continues to grow. Though it has 181 counselors, therapists, administrators, and addiction experts currently on its staff, its website constantly posts job openings; 121 at last count, as the demand for addiction recovery services continues to soar.

McLaughlin anticipates that other large companies will follow CVS in partnerships. "We're just getting started!" she says. "Covid has given us a huge launching opportunity. We want to be the first organization on people's tongues when they think of addiction." ■

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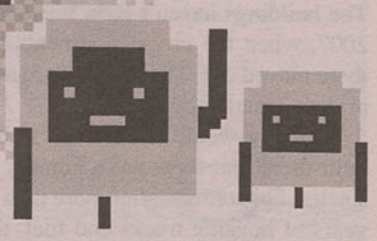
ROBOT FAREWELL

BY Jan Schlain



WHAT HAPPENED TO REFRACTION AI'S ADORABLE LITTLE SHUTTLES?

They were here: ten shiny, bicycle-wheeled robots. Then suddenly, they were gone.

Refraction AI's delivery vehicles rolled onto Ann Arbor's streets two years ago amid a flurry of national news and social media attention. "The feedback is people are very excited," Refraction cofounder and U-M robotics prof Matthew Johnson-Roberson told the Observer in 2020. "They hear a lot about autonomous vehicles—there are a lot of news stories—but it's very rare to get the opportunity to actually interact with one."

JOHN HILTON

seeing one on the street was a joy, in a weird kind of way.

The three-wheeled, battery-powered shuttles weren't entirely autonomous—they were always monitored remotely and escorted by "safety operators" on bicycles or electric scooters—but seeing one on the street was a joy, in a weird kind of way. The company said that because they cost just $4,000 apiece, they could make deliveries for half the cost of car-based services like Grubhub or DoorDash. Johnson-Roberson said they were asking themselves "what process, and what type of vehicle assembly, works for 1,000 vehicles?"

Miss Kim owner Ji Hye Kim started using the service because one of her customers, mechanical engineering prof Ram Vasudevan, was Refraction's cofounder. "They emailed me, then we met over coffee, and I thought it was a really interesting, fun idea," she recalls. "And we gave it a try."

The service "was great," Kim says. So she was disappointed when it was canceled without warning in October.

"It wasn't like 'Hey, we might not be giving you service after this particular day because of x, y and z,'" says Jenny Hall, marketing and communications manager at Zingerman's. "It was like, everything was moving forward as normal, and then all of a sudden, we just [got] notice" that the robots were leaving town.

"It's a bummer for us," says Kim, "because we don't have a good idea how to fill that need again without the robot delivery. A lot of small businesses cannot afford the kind of car insurance that you need to have in order to do in-house delivery. We have to rely on third parties, and we are at the mercy of the third-party agreements. We don't know how to fill this gap.

"But," she adds, "it's a very small gap."

"From our perspective there just wasn't a whole lot of story" in the shuttle's departure, says Hugh O'Donnell, Refraction's Portland-based director of business development and strategy. O'Donnell says that while the company's five R&D vehicles will remain in Ann Arbor, the entire delivery fleet of ten is now in Austin.

"We did several thousand deliveries" in Ann Arbor, O'Donnell says. They "had a lot of fun working with the restaurant community," he says, but "ultimately there's a lot of benefit to having all of your robots in one place."

The company sent its first batch to Texas this past summer—CEO Luke Schneider, who was hired last fall, is based there. At the time, it was described as an expansion. But by then, Johnson-Roberson's ties to Ann Arbor may already have been fraying. In November, Carnegie Mellon University announced that he'd agreed to lead its renowned robotics institute.

"Austin is the eleventh biggest city in the U.S. and has a lot of characteristics that are really comparable to average American cities," O'Donnell says of the decision to concentrate there. "It offers a level of operational diversity that allows us to demonstrate the flexibility of what we're able to do and just how broadly applicable our technology is in the real world."

> cofounder matthew johnson-roberson said the company was thinking in terms of 1,000 vehicles.

But even in mid-sized Ann Arbor, the bots' visibility exceeded their impact. Three restaurants the Observer spoke to said they made minimal use of the service.

It "was really inefficient," says a manager at Tios. "We would call for one of them to come at a certain time, and it would take longer; and we would have the food cooked, and on top of that, it would be in the robot for longer than a driver would take because they move quite a bit slower than a driver in a car. So really, it was a food quality issue."

The problems weren't unique to Refraction. "We used to use DoorDash and Grubhub," the manager says, "and we don't anymore because of that inconsistency. "We just do all of our deliveries ourselves."

"It was easy for us to learn about them because they were doing all their trial runs in the building upstairs from us," emails Dennis Webster of the Earle. "We did utilize the delivery bots, but only very seldom." His customers just didn't seem interested in delivery, and the Earle no longer offers it.

"We were excited about their potential to solve our delivery issues but ultimately had to stop using them because of their internal issues and restrictions," says BTB Buritto's Adam Lowenstein. "They only went to 8 p.m., they had a three-mile delivery radius, and more often than not, they didn't have enough bots available for their demand. We dropped them before they closed shop."

O'Donnell suggests that if other restaurants didn't use the service much, it's because one client was all-consuming: "As you can imagine, for just about anyone doing delivery in Ann Arbor, Zingerman's [Deli] ate up almost all of our deliveries," he says.

Like Kim, Zingerman's Hall liked the service. "They would mostly be on time," she says. "They'd show up when expected. We didn't have too many delays. So that was fabulous … it was a great option for a lot of near-location deliveries. My guess is if it were a campus area or downtown [destination], it probably went faster than a driver."

But "what I heard more often was that the assessment of it changed over time," Hall continues. "When it was very new, it was very novel. Toward the later end of it, people started questioning why there was both a robot and a person; it seemed inefficient at that point. But they hadn't developed the technology enough to eliminate the person … so that was an ongoing question—'Well, if there's a person there, why do you need the robot *and* the person to make the delivery?'"

No company has yet deployed a fully autonomous vehicle. Tesla has heavily promoted a feature it calls "full self driving," but now describes it as merely assisting the driver. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is investigating multiple incidents where its cars have crashed into parked emergency vehicles while on "autopilot."

Tesla, with its trillion-dollar market valuation, can afford to continue developing the technology. Refraction's situation is more precarious.

Zingerman's Deli used the bots for "a handful up to fifteen to twenty deliveries a day," says Hall—and by O'Donnell's account, that was most of the company's business.

Though they got no advance notice of the shutdown, Hall says, they did get an explanation. During a phone interview, she pulls up an email from her manager and reads it aloud:

"'Refraction AI abruptly closed their Ann Arbor delivery operations today. Effective immediately—because they're going to miss the next funding round and decided to consolidate in Austin.'

"They did what they needed to do for their business," says Hall.

Asked if the company lost an expected investment, O'Donnell doesn't answer directly, but texts, "We're in good shape from a capital standpoint."

"If we have it our way, in every other city in the U.S. there will be robots," he said earlier. "So we will be doing deliveries in Ann Arbor again. It's just a matter of getting more robots rolled off the line to make that happen …"

Despite the challenges, O'Donnell's faith in the little bots is undimmed. "I like to say for everything that can wait, there's Amazon," he says. "And for everything else, there's us."

JOHN HILTON

"toward the later end of it, people started questioning why there was both a robot and a person."

The Eyesore on W. Washington

The old road commission site is once again in play.

by Grace Shackman

For years, people who pass by the former Washtenaw County Road Commission site across from the Ann Arbor Y have wondered why something hasn't been done to what is universally agreed is an eyesore. The buildings haven't been touched since 2007, when the city departments located there moved out. The grounds are a mix of broken cement and dirt.

The city would like to see something built there, but there are a number of obstacles. For starters, after more than eighty years of housing trucks and fuel, the soil and water table are contaminated.

Then there's Allen Creek, which passes under the site in a pipe—except in heavy rains, when it reclaims its floodplain. Even the portion outside the floodplain, called the flood fringe, has a number of problems.

Most obviously, the former buildings are still there and need to be either renovated or removed. And because the entire site is in the Old West Side Historic District, any development would have to be approved by the Historic District Commission (HDC) before it would even be considered by the planning commission and then city council.

In 1953 (above), road commission employees posed proudly beside their trucks. Scarcely changed since, and now nearly 100 years old (top), the building needs to be rebuilt or replaced—but it sits atop buried Allen Creek, which severely limits potential uses.

Voters approved the creation of a road commission in 1919, and the county acquired the W. Washington property the same year. In 1925 it constructed the site's signature building facing Washington St., with a garage on the ground level and office space upstairs. A smaller repair shop was added in 1929, and another repair shop in the 1930s.

In 1965, when the road commission moved to new headquarters on Zeeb Rd., the city took over, using the garage for maintenance vehicles and the offices for a variety of departments that overflowed City Hall. When stormwater and floodplain coordinator Jerry Hancock started working for the city in 1990, he was often in the building; even then, he says, it was very rundown, with a leaky roof and uneven floors.

The city moved its maintenance operations to the Wheeler Service Center on Stone School Rd. in 2007. Five years later, the city hired architect Marc Rueter to do an evaluation of the main building. Because it's in the floodplain, it couldn't be used for housing. There was interest at the time from the Arts Alliance and the Kiwanis, but neither venture panned out. Rueter says his suggestions for repair could still be implemented but would cost more today. Activists who are worried that the buildings are too far gone to repair call it "demolition by neglect."

In 2019 the city hired SmithGroup, a Detroit architectural firm with offices in Ann Arbor, to look at four city-owned sites to see if they could be used for low-income housing. Three had obvious potential, but the W. Washington site was a much more difficult challenge. For starters it would have to be rezoned—SmithGroup suggested changing it from PL, public land, to D2, downtown interface. But federal low-income housing subsidies wouldn't be available, since their rules preclude building on floodplains. In their report, SmithGroup suggested local funds, such as the city's affordable housing millage, could be used instead. But housing activists point out that cleanup costs would make that option not realistic. Alternatively, the site could be used for market-rate housing, with the profits put in a fund to build affordable housing somewhere else.

SmithGroup's charge is to create an RFP (request for proposals) for interested developers to bid on. Working closely with Washtenaw County's brownfield redevelopment program, they are working out "entitlements," which lay out what is and isn't allowed, with the necessary permits already obtained. Those could include tax increment financing (TIF), which would allow developers to deduct environmental cleanup costs from future property taxes. Brownfield program head Nathan Voght points out that TIFs have been used successfully to clean up other contaminated sites, including Beekman on Broadway, which was impacted by a dry cleaners and junkyard, and the Flatiron building at Detroit and Division streets, which replaced a gas station. Rueter, who designed that building, recalls that they had to dig down twenty feet to get rid of the impacted soil.

In July, the architects held a working session with the HDC to get feedback on a possible six-story building on the site. A group of neighbors from Third St. didn't like that. They weren't much happier in September, when the architects showed a modified plan that shifted the tallest parts away from their backyards.

Mark Wishka, who has lived on Third since 1978, thinks townhouses would make more sense than a high-rise, which, even stepped back, would "loom dramatically." His next-door neighbor, Ann Colvin, says it's not the low-income aspect of the project that bothers the neighbors, but the height. Colvin would rather see the site used as an anchor park for the Treeline, which would let the critters that live there now stay—raccoons, woodchucks, rabbits.

Jerry Hancock sees bigger problems if the building impinges on the floodplain. "If they build there, it will just increase the

floodplain in other areas, causing property damage and a safety risk," he explains. Since the city owns the site, he says, it has an "opportunity to plan a resilient use that mitigates the [existing buildings'] development impact and considers future flood conditions."

Activist Tom Stulberg worries that when the floodplain maps are redrawn, they will show a larger floodway, which will continue to grow with the effects of global warming. Stulberg thinks that the city has wasted time and money developing the pre-entitlements. He doubts any developers will be interested when they see all the challenges plus the community opposition.

Whatever happens, there is one area all the interested parties agree on, which is to save the old chimney on the main building so that the chimney swifts can continue to roost there.

If Stulberg's prediction proves correct, what else could be done? A popular option is the one Colvin suggests: use the site as a park. It would enhance the Greenway, and no one would be in jeopardy if a flood occurred. But it costs money to create parks, and the city can't use TIFs to offset cleanup costs.

Lately another possibility has surfaced. Joe Lambert, who owns the former Moveable Feast building on W. Liberty, has floated the idea of an adaptive reuse project that would keep the old buildings for farmers' market stalls, create a green area in the middle where kids could play and other activities such as yoga and Pilates could take place, and build housing on the higher land he already owns in back of his building. He even has funding lined up—although he is quick to say that this is not in opposition to the SmithGroup plan, just a fallback if their plan fails.

Whatever happens, there is one area all the interested parties agree on, which is to save the old chimney on the main building so that the chimney swifts can continue to roost there. The abandoned chimney provides a perfect place for them to gather in the fall to prepare for their flight to South America. SmithGroup has examined the chimney and found that it is "not structurally connected to the existing building." So even if the building is demolished, the chimney could be preserved. ■

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food & wine magazine puts ji hye on best new chefs list!

local chef honored with a national award

The Times Dining Editor was elated, but not surprised, to learn that Miss Kim Chef and Managing Partner Ji Hye Kim was named one of the "Best New Chefs" by *Food & Wine* magazine. She opened Miss Kim, now a beloved fixture in Ann Arbor's Kerrytown, in 2016 (after working at both the Deli and the Roadhouse, and running a food truck). Zingerman's Co-Founding Partner Ari Weinzweig appreciated her national recognition:

"Ji Hye's diligence in study and her attention to detail, her care for her craft, and her devotion to using local ingredients in the context of centuries-old regional recipes from Korean history come through loud and clear in the quality and complexity of her cooking."

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Give yourself something sweet to look forward to and start planning your 2022 trip today. Perhaps you're thirsty for a visit to the orange-wine producing vineyards of Slovenia or craving a culinary cycling tour of Copenhagen with a local chef? Zingerman's Food Tours takes you behind the scenes, connecting you to the history of a region, the spirit of its people, and the rhythm of daily life.

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zingerman's holiday coffee blend

coffee lovers raving about the complexity of the 2021 vintage!

The Times Winter Beverage Desk got the scoop that the Holiday Coffee Blend from Zingerman's Coffee Company has returned. A thoughtful combination of estate coffees to create a special, seasonal brew—no added flavors here. The 2021 vintage features a trio of terrific beans: 50% Espresso #1, 25% Peru Corral de Piedra, 25% Costa Rica Willows Special Reserve. Rich, layered, silky smooth, and sure to warm up coffee-lovers from the inside out.

Turn any day into a holiday—pick up a cup of coffee or a bag of beans at the Coffee Company or at zcob.me/holidayblend.

zingerman's catering

Party planning made easy

While organizing the annual holiday office gathering, *The Times* party planning desk learned that multiple Zingerman's businesses have culinary crews ready to help pull off an extraordinary event at one of their many venues, or at your own house—even virtually!

Zingerman's Cornman Farms

Host an event at this historic, 19th-century setting ("Michigan's Barn of the Year" in 2015) or have the Cornman Farms' team come to you. Chef Kieron Hales can even incorporate some of your most cherished family recipes into your event's menu.

Zingerman's Catering & Events

Successfully catering memorable events takes range, and the Deli Catering crew is ready to handle an intimate gathering up to the largest of gatherings. With everything from deli platters to on-site dinner service offering nationally-acclaimed corned beef, roast chicken, poached salmon, and so much more.

Zingerman's Greyline

A unique venue to host your staff party or family celebration, this historic, renovated Greyhound bus station in downtown Ann Arbor even has a hotel on-site for out-of-town guests.

Zingerman's Roadhouse

Host a private party in the restaurant or have them bring all of the Roadhouse classics offsite, like fried chicken, barbecue, fresh fish, pimento cheese, and more great American food.

Zingerman's Bakehouse

The Bakehouse's in-house Cake Studio creates incredible works of delicious, edible art that could grace your table for weddings, birthdays, bar and bat mitzvahs, anniversaries, and any other occasion at which cake is called for!

Zingerman's Creamery

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Marketplace Changes

by Micheline Maynard

Kerrytown Gets a New Kitchen Store

And Found finds its third incarnation.

Cooks have a haven again in the Kerrytown Market & Shops. In late October, retailing veteran Gretchen Gill Woods opened **The Kitchen Loft** in the second-floor space previously occupied by Spun, which moved downstairs last summer into part of Hollander's old spot.

Many locals have fond memories of Kitchen Port, an original Kerrytown tenant that was a wonderland of pots, pans, and tea towels.

After Kitchen Port left (it moved to Scio Township in 2005 and closed in 2009), Tom and Cindy Hollander experimented with selling kitchenware (I own a Staub Dutch oven purchased there) before returning to their original focus: decorative papers and bookbinding supplies. They closed their physical store last year, but are still in business online.

Now comes The Kitchen Loft, which Woods has stocked with a variety of goods aimed at everyone from beginners to professionals.

"I've got things for that entry-level person all the way up to someone looking for a really nice knife," she says.

Woods has a lengthy Ann Arbor retailing history, including two years as the store manager for Spice & Tea Merchants across the corridor in Kerrytown, as well as time at JCPenney and Home Depot.

"I was at a point in life where I wanted to start a business," she says. Having worked in Kerrytown, she knew the clientele, and people often told her how much they missed Kitchen Port.

"I realized there was definitely a niche to be filled here," she says. Woods brainstormed her plans with Mary Cambruzzi, the owner of Found gallery, which itself has just undergone a transformation (see below).

As interest in cooking and baking spiked during the pandemic, Woods decided the time was right. She actually hoped to find a bigger space, since this one is too small to offer cooking classes. There is room for product demonstrations, though—she is especially interested in helping college students and young professionals learn to buy and use kitchen tools.

One focus is microwave gadgets, and another is on items made from recycled materials. She's striving to sell things made locally or at least in the U.S., although a good portion of her inventory comes from overseas.

Another focus is entertaining. Woods is selling hot sauce, honey, and drink mixes, and she expects to have a full line of craft cocktail ingredients—because not only are people cooking more at home, "they've

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Kerrytown neighbors Gretchen Gill Woods (above) at The Kitchen Loft and Mary Cambruzzi at Found.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

definitely brought the bar to home," she says.

Woods sees her main competition as chains like Macy's, Home Goods, and T.J. Maxx. In order to keep prices reasonable, she's part of a buyers' group that supplies individual businesses. But she believes her competitive edge over the big stores will be customer service. "We'll work with you one-on-one, and we're going to put items in a gift bag" if a customer wants a purchase wrapped.

More than that, she says, "I want to be an asset to the community. I want it to be fun. I want it to be a great place to work. More locations are not on my scope right now. I just want it to be the best place it can be."

The Kitchen Loft, 407 N. Fifth Ave., (734) 780–7087. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.– 6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. (hours may change during holiday events). the-kitchen-loft.myshopify.com

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Mary Cambruzzi opened **Found** on the second floor of Kerrytown in 2005, where The Kitchen Loft is now—she calls it her gallery's "incubator space." (Spun incubated there, too.)

Her original concept was to gather items that she discovered at estate sales, art made from recycled materials, and handmade goods.

Ten years later—with her gift shop bursting with items like pillows, jewelry, and paper goods—she moved to a 3,000-square-foot space in the center's Luick Building.

In late October, Cambruzzi added another 1,700 square feet, expanding into the courtyard spot briefly occupied by Title Nine, a national chain of women's athletic wear and clothing (Observer, February).

Her nearly 5,000 square feet of combined space makes Found one of Ann Arbor's largest home decor shops, aside from big-box stores.

Although she signed the lease in June, it took Cambruzzi several months to decide how to design the extra space. She took out a wall between the two stores and moved her office to the back.

In the past, Cambruzzi kept track of her inventory manually, but with the expansion, she jokes, Found "moved into the last century:" they created barcoded labels for all 35,000 items in inventory, some of them for things as small as stickers (don't miss the two-handed map of Michigan, which is sure to be a hit).

In contrast to the more crowded main section of Found, which this month is filled with holiday decor, notebooks, aprons, and glassware, the expanded floor space looks more like someone's tastefully decorated living room.

"I didn't feel the need to fill every inch of space at the beginning," Cambruzzi says.

In November, a pair of green velvet couches sat facing each other, while bookshelves nearby held carefully spaced ceramic pieces, and tables held the most-requested addition: greeting cards.

Found didn't carry them in the past because Hollander's did, but her customers encouraged her to fill the void when they closed.

She was especially happy to see visitors return on football Saturdays and during U-M's November parents' weekend. And unlike many small businesses, she's been blessed with a stable staff.

Found has five full-time staff members, plus another half-dozen part-timers, many of whom have other full-time jobs but like to help out nights and weekends.

"It's been easier for retail to come back" than restaurants and other service businesses, Cambruzzi says. "Stores that have a point of view and unique merchandise and good customer service worked hard to survive through the pandemic. And now, we're on a footing where we're OK."

Found, 415 N. Fifth Ave., (734) 302–3060. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. foundgallery.com

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Marketplace **Changes**

Ypsi's Hyperion Coffee Comes to Ann Arbor

And Ann Arbor Coffee Roasting brings ERC veterans back to State St.

Eric Mullins, Dan Kubera, and Alex Merz had only one goal when they founded **Hyperion Coffee Co.** on River St. in Ypsilanti five years ago: they wanted to source and roast coffee from small growers.

But as their retail and wholesale bean business flourished, customers begged them to serve brewed coffee. An Ypsi café followed, with so much demand that the roasting operation moved to a warehouse a mile away on Cross St. to make more space for customers.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Hyperion's Alex Merz, Dan Kubera, and Eric Mullins listened to their customers—first by opening a coffeeshop in Ypsi, then by adding one in Ann Arbor.

As annual revenue approached the million-dollar mark, word about Hyperion spread among area coffee lovers. "Every day, somebody asked us, 'When are you going to open a shop in Ann Arbor?' " Mullins says.

Now, Hyperion has done so on W. Liberty, taking a spot vacated in August by Thrive Juicery. (Thrive's E. Stadium location remains open.)

Mullins spotted the "For Lease" sign on his way to deliver bagged coffee to the original Argus Farm Stop. He quickly contacted landlords Joe and Carolyn Arcure, who live upstairs, and soon opened a cozy café with four tables, a four-seat counter, and a sofa set opposite a big window onto Liberty; even before the grand opening in mid-November, all were all filled on a sunny afternoon.

"We're so happy you have a second location. We love your coffee," a bearded male customer told a beaming barista.

Music is at a low volume, and the staff checks in with customers to see how they like their drinks. "We wanted a more intimate setting where we can have conversations with people," Mullins says.

The 1,000-square-foot shop offers a full line of coffee drinks featuring Hyperion's beans, from brewed coffee at $2.25 to a latte at $4.25. My cortado, at $3.25, was decorated with an artful tulip.

Seasonal items, which at opening included a pumpkin-spice latte and caramel apple cider, are $4.75. Tea, sparkling drinks, and a selection of bagged beans, starting at $12 for twelve ounces, also are available.

The café is featuring baked goods from Songbird Café, Bird Dog Baking, Milk + Honey, and vegan items from Botanical Bake Shop.

Mullins says Hyperion plans a series of events and collaborations. It served cold brew at the opening of the Ann Arbor Art Center's Historic Futures show and began a series of coffee classes. The first featured a limited-edition Big Red, the result of a coffee-breeding project with Sigri Estate in Papua New Guinea.

While its cafés give it visibility, Mullins says he's just as excited about Hyperion's wholesale business. Its twelve-ounce bags are a familiar sight in Ann Arbor and metro Detroit grocery stores.

"David and Alex and I are coffee people," he says. "We want the coffee to tell the story first."

Hyperion Coffee, 111 W. Liberty, (734) 510–0398. Daily 7 a.m.–6 p.m. hyperioncoffee.com

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In contrast to the relaxing vibe at Hyperion, in mid-November the atmosphere at **Ann Arbor Coffee Roasting Co.** was more like a construction site. There were no signs on the building on State St. at North University, either on the front of the building or inside, where a crew struggled to install a menu board. But the double storefront was packed with customers, some waiting to order drinks, others to pick theirs up, and still others filling seats at tables and two counters.

"I got a triple espresso!" shouted one staff member. "Whole milk latte!" yelled another.

The café is a homecoming for its owners: Manthri Srinath managed the original Espresso Royale café here for its founder, the late Marcus Goller. His partners are Goller's widow, Amy McEwen Goller, and son Spencer Goller.

For now, they're getting their coffee from the former ERC roastery in Brighton, but there are plans to roast coffee on-site.

It's the latest ERC location to spring back to life. Earlier this fall, ERC veterans Lisa Tuveson and Ken Pargulski opened M-36 Coffee Roasters in the former ERC on South University, while Möge Tee is now in ERC's onetime Plymouth Rd. spot.

A printed menu next to the cash register listed prices of $3.75 for hot chocolate, $5 for a small regular latte, and $5.75 for a coconut crème latte. Plant-based milks are

75 cents extra, and there's a display of the available kinds on the counter.

Since there were no open seats, I took my $4.50 cortado, served in a paper cup with no lid, back to my car to enjoy. The espresso was smooth and flavorful, and while the crema looked more like a blob than a flower, Ann Arbor Roasting merits a return trip when things settle down.

Ann Arbor Coffee Roasting Company, 324 S. State. No phone. annarborcoffeeroasting.com.

Craft Cannabis at Winewood Organics

And other marijuana news

In February 2018, Eric Parkhurst spent a weekend camped outside City Hall in a snowstorm. As a registered medical marijuana caregiver for his wife, Becca, and others, he was already growing pot in a former cat sanctuary at the corner of Winewood and Maple, but a drive was underway to permit recreational use. The city would take applications the next Monday from businesses that wanted to sell directly to consumers—and if another nearby business applied before him, he figured he might never get another chance.

Parkhurst was second in line and got his application—but had second thoughts when he found that getting the required state licenses would cost something like $168,000 a year.

Those fees have since come down, he says, as more retailers open and the cost of administering the state regulatory system is more widely distributed. But Parkhurst chose a different path: **Winewood Organics** is the county's first "marijuana microbusiness."

The newly created category limits the number of plants he can grow, and he can sell only what he grows or produces directly to consumers—but the annual licensing fee is just $8,000.

"Anything with THC in it was grown on-site," says Parkhurst, in a snug waiting room off the sales floor. Any products, "like an extract or an edible, those are also made here," he says. "So we don't wholesale any product out, and we don't bring in any products." And, unlike growers who raise their crops hydroponically, he uses organic compost from an outfit in mid-Michigan.

Buds of varieties like Slurricane, Orange Push Pop, and Big House OG run $30–$55 per eighth of an ounce. "Pre-rolls" ($20–$26 for two) are made entirely with flower—no "trim" or "shake" from other parts of the plant, Parkhurst says. He also sells vape cartridges, and plans to make his first edibles this month.

Parkhurst says his limited-volume organic products cost a little more, but customers can tell the difference. They also like buying from a small-scale local grower. Parkhurst and retail manager Marcus Huber work long hours, so either or both will almost always be on hand.

Winewood Organics, 2494 Winewood Ave. No phone. Mon.–Fri. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. winewoodorganics.com.

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Pot stores aren't just popping up like coffeehouses—they're replacing coffeehouses. In September, New Standard opened in a former house on N. Main that was converted to retail use a few years ago by the short-lived Electric Eye Café.

One of eight shops in a growing Michigan chain, **New Standard Ann Arbor** sells flower, pre-rolls, vape cartridges, concentrates, tinctures, edibles, and balms. Manager Coleman LaBarr says most of the product comes from a farm in mid-Michigan near Beaverton.

"We have curated, quality products and an educated team of bud tenders," LaBarr says. In October they really hadn't established a market niche yet, but their best-selling products were Element "live resin" concentrates ($55 a gram).

"Try us, and you'll be back," LaBarr promises.

New Standard Ann Arbor, 811 N. Main, (734) 372–0420. Mon.–Sat. 9 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. anewstandard.com

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JARS Cannabis recently opened two Ann Arbor stores, on S. Main and Packard. Their categories: flower, pre-rolls, vape cartridges, concentrates, edibles, tinctures, and topicals. They also sell baked goods and gummies.

"People are audibly enjoying the relaxed nature of our store," says Storm Carlton, inventory manager at the S. Main location.

"The Ann Arbor market is oversaturated," Carlton says, and "most of our customers are older than younger." Based in Royal Oak, JARS has a dozen locations in Michigan and Arizona, with ten more under development. The one at Packard and Platt replaces the Blue Apple gas station and convenience store.

JARS Ann Arbor, 450 S. Main, (734) 526–1100. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–8 p.m. 3005 Packard, (734) 489–6680. jarscannabis.com.

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Winewood Organics retail manager Marcus Huber and owner Eric Parkhurst. As a "marijuana microbusiness," they sell only products grown and produced on-site.

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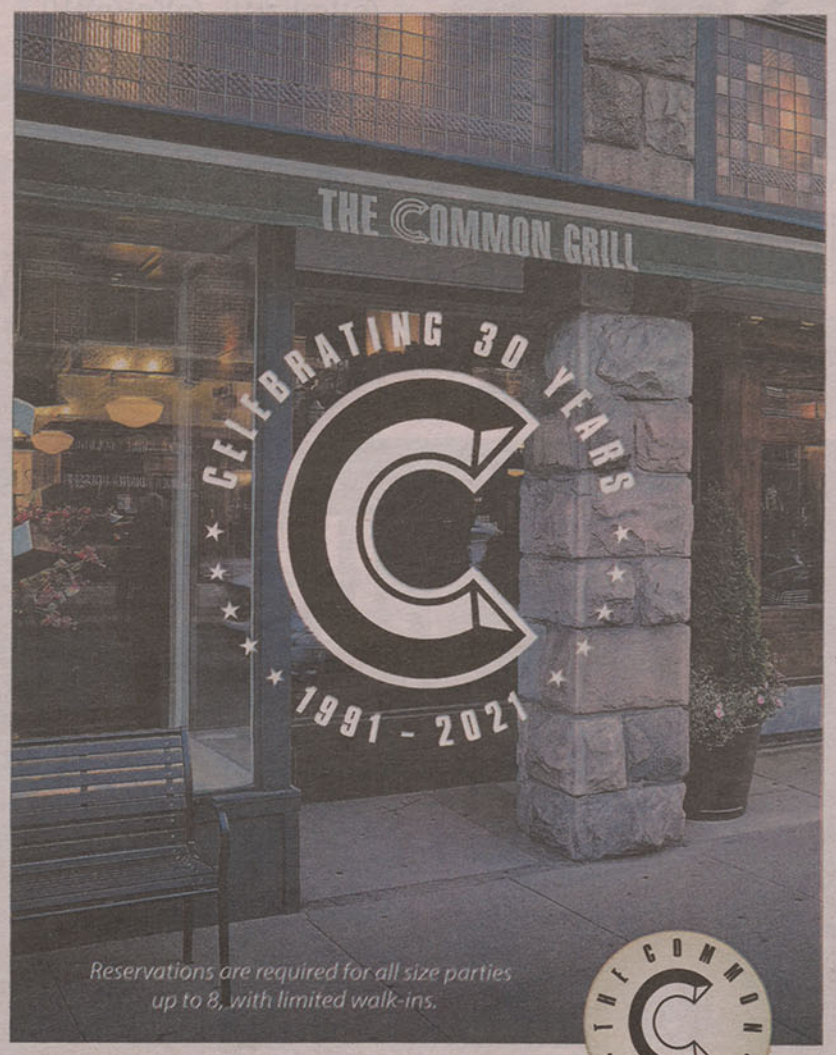

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Marketplace **Changes**

Briefly noted

Hyperion Coffee (see above) isn't the only Ypsilanti business expanding to Ann Arbor. **Cravings Dessert Lounge,** which opened two years ago on Ellsworth Rd. in Ypsi Township, has added a second location inside Ahmo's at Maple and Dexter.

Cravings is co-owned by Mohammed and Nasser Nemer, both members of the extended Issa family, which own the Ahmo's restaurants. The family's business empire got its start in the Dexter Rd. location back in the 1970s, when it was a party store called the Milk Depot.

Cravings' signature dish is a *kanafa* bowl, at $8, a thickened milk pudding topped with fruit, walnuts, shredded filo dough, and syrup. One generous serving can easily be a meal—Mohammed Nemer says he often eats it for dinner—or shared between several customers.

Other treats include rice pudding, cake slices, and Middle Eastern pastries, including trays of baklava and other sweets. Individual pieces of baklava start at $2, while a small mix is $8 and a full-sized tray is $25.

Desserts can be ordered along with the regular Ahmo's menu and are available for delivery.

Cravings Dessert Lounge, inside Ahmo's Gyros & Deli, 2505 Dexter Ann Arbor Rd., (734) 998–4445. Mon.–Sat. 10:30 a.m.–8:30 p.m. Closed Sun. ahmosgyroanddeli.com/7304

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Since it opened in 2014, **Slurping Turtle** on E. Liberty has drawn crowds of students, moviegoers, and locals for its bowls of ramen and plates of sushi.

In September, it closed for what it estimated would be a six-to-eight-week renovation. Another restaurant might simply paper over the windows and focus on repairs.

Instead, Slurping's restaurant friends helped it stay on the radar. In late October, Slurping-inspired duck-fat–fried chicken wings were on the menu at Side Biscuit, the wings and sandwich shop on Packard.

Meanwhile, it held the first of several sushi pop-ups at its neighbor, Knight's Downtown. The idea came about during a conversation between the two restaurants' staffers.

Knight's kitchen manager Rick Croley says the arrangement pays off for both restaurants.

"We got to offer something different, and they got to keep their name out there!" Croley emails. "We thought it would be nice to keep them in peoples' thoughts or mouths."

Side Biscuit owner Jordan Balduf says he's been a regular customer for the industry nights Slurping has hosted on Mondays and has competed in its annual ramen battle.

"We did a collaboration while they were still open and catered their staff party, and we had always dreamed of pulling off the duck fat fried chicken as a collab at Side Biscuit," he emails.

Once Slurping Turtle closed, "it was a perfect time to give their regulars a taste of the food they missed in a different form and vessel at Side Biscuit."

Like Knight's, Balduf says he'll probably do another tie-in soon. At press time, there was no date yet on when Slurping Turtle will reopen.

Closings

Crazy Wisdom Bookstore plans to close its Main St. location on February 15, owners Bill Zirinsky and Ruth Schekter announced in November.

The business was founded thirty-nine years ago, and the couple have owned it for more than thirty years.

The bookstore business itself may be sold, or another business may go into the building, which is not for sale, the couple said.

The *Crazy Wisdom Journal,* available in print and online, and a biweekly e-zine, launched eighteen months ago, will continue online. Zirinsky says Crazy Wisdom also will keep control of its four websites.

"There is a relentlessness to a retail business—open 7 days a week, 360 days a year, and to the hamster-wheel aspect of staffing and management issues," the couple wrote on Facebook. "Our own family has grown up, and we're in our 60's, and we're ready to look out upon a new and different horizon."

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Collected Works, known for its artful clothing and accessories, plans to close when the holidays are over, although it has not set a definite end date.

In an email to customers, owner Irene Patalan said she plans to retire after forty-four years in business. Patalan and Rich Thompson opened the shop in fall, 1977, and it operated from a series of locations before moving into the Marketplace Building on Detroit St. twenty years ago.

Patalan said she prized the relationships she nurtured with her customers, which span multiple generations.

"It has been a fun, exciting labor of love," Patalan wrote.

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Andrew Stevick plans to shut his Kerrytown lunch counter by the end of December. **Loomi,** named after a method for preserving lemons, began as a food cart in the Farmers Market in 2018, serving Middle Eastern, Turkish, South American, and Indian dishes. Stevick moved indoors to the former Kosmo Deli spot the following year (Observer, July 2019).

Loomi initially bustled, with the scent of its fragrant cooking greeting shoppers who entered from the center's parking lot doors. But pandemic restrictions prompted Stevick to refocus on carryout.

Stevick wouldn't discuss his immediate plans. "Right now, my focus is on executing great food while we wrap it up," he emailed.

Have a retail or restaurant tip? Email marketplace@aaobserver.com.

2021 Holiday Guide

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Kerrytown Market Shops, 407 N. 5th Ave.
(upstairs in the Kerrytown Market & Shops building)

2021 Holiday Guide

Arbor Teas

Arbor Teas is a family-owned organic tea company based in Ann Arbor, Michigan since 2004. Their daily mission is to find the world's most fantastic organic teas and deliver them to their customers as sustainably as possible. In addition to a carefully curated catalog of over 100 organic teas, they offer teapots, infusers, Michigan-made Matcha bowls and mugs (by Autumn Aslakson, Swallowtail Pottery, and Grayling Ceramics), as well as gift sets, tea samplers and kombucha homebrew kits. Arbor Teas offers free delivery in the city of Ann Arbor every Friday, and free pickup at their warehouse on North Main Street every weekday! They also ship throughout the U.S.

1342 N. Main St., Ann Arbor, (734) 994–7698 • arborteas.com

Calder Dairy & Farm

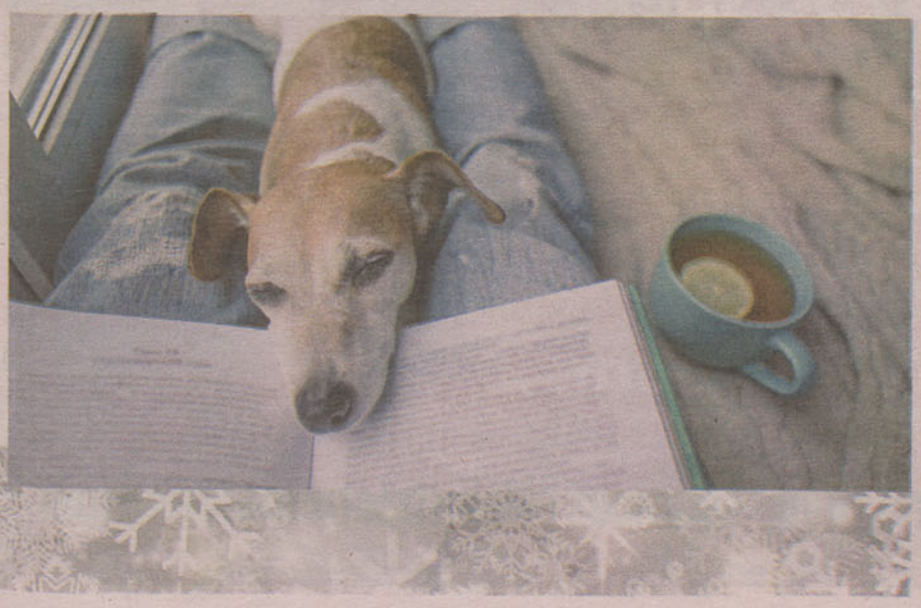
Calder Dairy & Farm is ready for your holiday dinner, and it's never been easier to get dinner on the table without ever leaving home! Calder Dairy was established in 1946 with the vision to deliver farm-fresh premium dairy products to local homes. Delivered straight to your door is fresh vat pasteurized milk and cream, buttermilk, farm-fresh butter, chip dip, eggs, and premium ice cream. Calder's world-famous eggnog has traveled with customers all over the U.S. and is a family favorite for many! Shop local: Awrey's baked goods, Mighty Good Coffee, and Safie Pickles. Currently delivering to Monroe, Wayne, Washtenaw, and southwestern Oakland counties. To become a home delivery customer or to learn more, call the Dairy Store at (313) 381–8858 between 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Calder Farm: 9334 Finzel Rd., Carleton, (734) 654–2622
Calder Dairy & Store: 1020 Southfield Rd., Lincoln Park, (313) 381–8858
Calder Store: 28190 Telegraph Rd., Flat Rock, (734) 984–6985
calderdairy.com

Catch Us While You Can! Pop-Up Art & Crafts Gallery

For 6 weeks, an eclectic group of Ann Arbor area artists are reinhabiting Peaceable Kingdom's former space right on Main St. for their Pop-Up Art & Crafts Gallery—"**Catch-Us-While-You-Can**!" Featured are the colorful collages of the Chenille Sisters' Cheryl Dawdy. Her work has been shown in 30 galleries, mostly in NYC and the Hudson River Valley, receiving many accolades. 15 of A2's best-known artists—plus some showing for the first time—are displaying a wide range of paintings, ceramics, photography, sculpture, pottery, rustic-wares, greeting cards, and locally authored books. Most also have high-quality prints of their work for sale!

November 19–December 24
Tuesday–Thursday & Sunday: 11 a.m.–8 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 12 p.m.–9 p.m. • Closed Mondays



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Kerrytown Market & Shops
Visit Us on the 2nd Floor!

407 N 5th Ave, Ann Arbor
734-780-7087 Shop Local

GIVE THE GIFT OF FINE DINING!

Get FREE Bonus Cards!

NOW - December 31st

Purchase $250 or more in Gift Cards
& Get $50 FREE in Promotional Gift Cards
for every $250 spent.

Purchase $1000 or more in Gift Cards
& Get $50 FREE in Promotional Gift Cards
for every $200 spent.

Redeemable At All Mainstreet Ventures Restaurant Group Locations | Mainstreetventuresinc.com

2021 Holiday Guide

Comfort Keepers

Comfort Keepers are trained to help keep your loved one healthy and safe in the comfort of their own home this holiday season, and provide specialized services to meet their needs. Comfort Keepers can ease the pressure on family and friends while providing reliable, expert in-home assisted living services. Create new memories and continue traditions in the safety of your own home, and let Comfort Keepers help make your holiday brighter and more enjoyable for all.

7910 Ann Arbor, Ste. 2, Dexter, (734) 418–9186
comfortkeepers.com/offices/michigan/ann-arbor

Decode Ann Arbor

Travel Around the World in 80 Days at **Decode Ann Arbor**'s newest escape adventure. Race against time to visit iconic destinations, solving puzzles unique to the cultures of your host countries. Work with Milo, your daring hot air balloon pilot, to return in 80 days and earn the title of a true adventurer! Decode Ann Arbor's new location at 3170 Packard is a renovated warehouse that offers 1,500 square feet of puzzle challenges. The building is fitted with MERV 16 filtration plus UV light sanitation. Masks are required, all escape games are private, and all Decode team members are fully vaccinated.

3170 Packard St., Ann Arbor, (313) 438–8054 • decodeannarbor.com

First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor

No matter where you are on your faith journey, or how you worship, **First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor** welcomes you to celebrate Christmas with them. FUMC's congregation is grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which tears down walls and builds up the community. There are many ways to celebrate on Christmas Eve: outdoors downtown at 5 p.m. or indoors at 7:30 p.m., indoors at Green Wood at 5 p.m., or livestreamed on YouTube at FUMCannarbor. Please RSVP for all indoor services at FUMC-A2.ORG.

Downtown: 120 S. State St., Ann Arbor, (734) 662–4536
Green Wood: 1001 Green Rd., Ann Arbor, (734) 665–8558
fumc-a2.org

GILBERT Chocolates
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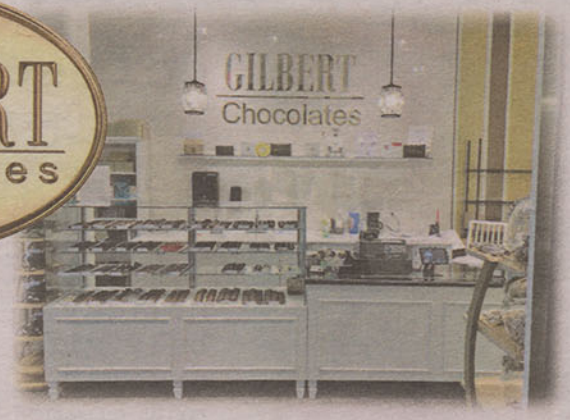

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From Our Boat To Your Table!

Try our delicious Halibut, Coho Salmon, Shrimp or Smoked Salmon.

Our next pickup is in Ann Arbor on December 11th.

Place your orders at

swordseafood.com

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A Perfect Holiday Gift! Direct from the Fishermen Who Catch It!

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coffee! it's what people want and need.

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37prime.etsy.com

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2021 Holiday Guide

Found

Found is a creatively curated shop in Ann Arbor's historic Kerrytown neighborhood featuring local artists, plus a collection of jewelry, gifts and home decor, with a focus on simple lines, natural elements, texture and pops of color. Mark your calendar for FESTIVE FRIDAYS at Found:
Nov. 26: Green Friday. 20% off anything green. Open 'til 8 p.m.
Dec. 3: Midnight Madness. Storewide 20% off + merry multiples. 10 a.m. 'til midnight!
Dec. 10: Giving Friday. 10% of sales to HouseN2Home.
Dec. 17: Fancy Friday. Dress fancy & get fancy good deals.
Dec. 24: Last minute festive shopping at Found.
Dec. 31: Happy New Year! Closing early to celebrate.

Located in Kerrytown Market & Shops: 415 N. 5th Ave., Ann Arbor
(734) 302–3060 • foundgallery.com

Fustini's

Fustini's in Kerrytown Market and Shops offers a selection of gifts perfect for the foodies on your list! Fustini's specialty oils and vinegars, cookbooks, virtual cooking classes, and gift cards make the perfect hostess or corporate gifts. Shop gourmet Michigan products from Iron Fish Distillery, Harwood Gold, Black Sheep Gastronomy and Great Lakes Bee Co. Fustini's oils and vinegars make a wonderful addition to many recipes, in everything from appetizers and entrées, through desserts and even beverages. Shop fustinis.com, shipping is available throughout the country!

Located in Kerrytown Market & Shops, 407 N. 5th Ave., Ann Arbor
(734) 213–1110 • fustinis.com

Gilbert Chocolates

With a history of quality gourmet chocolates since 1900, Gilbert Chocolates has stood the test of time as one of the best chocolate companies in Michigan. Experience their extensive collection of milk chocolates, dark chocolates, assorted chocolates, truffles, snappers, seasonal chocolates, and unique corporate chocolate gifts. You can buy gourmet chocolates at Briarwood mall, or shop their online chocolate products to have these scrumptious creations delivered fresh to you!

100 Briarwood Cir., Ann Arbor
(734) 373–6300 • gilbertchocolates.com

RING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE

MICHIGAN THEATER

HOLIDAY CLASSICS
SUNDAYS | 1:30 PM
FREE ADMISSION

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12/12

12/19

12/26

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EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS ON
TICKETS THROUGH 12/5!

2021 Holiday Guide

Giving It All Away: The Story of William W. Cook and His Michigan Law Quadrangle by Margaret A. Leary

If you're searching for a unique gift for Law Quad and local history fans, UM alums, or Cookies, ***Giving It All Away: The Story of William W. Cook and His Michigan Law Quadrangle* by Margaret A. Leary** is sure to please. Leary tells the story of William W. Cook, born in 1858, and a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. After making his fortune, Cook donated one of the finest facilities of any existing law school to U-M, and resources for the law school to engage in groundbreaking legal research. His generosity proved controversial, and eventually very litigious. Leary brings William W. Cook's story to life in this gripping book on sale now for $25.

Available at: Nicola's Bookstore, 2513 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor (734) 662–0600 and Amazon.com

The Guild of Artists & Artisans x Gutman Gallery

The **Guild of Artists & Artisans** presents the second annual Holiday Artist Market in Gutman Gallery. The market runs November 26–December 23, and highlights a wide variety of artist-made giftable works from 60+ artists. The gallery offers free gift wrapping on all purchases on Fridays, artist trunk shows on Fridays and Saturdays, private shopping parties, and other special events and promotions throughout the holiday season! Shop in-store Tuesday–Thursday from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. and Friday & Saturday from 11 a.m.–7 p.m. or online 24/7 at shopgutmangallery.com. Follow along on IG and FB @GutmanGallery for Holiday Artist Market updates and information!

Gutman Gallery, 118 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor
shopgutmangallery.com

Happy House

The doors of **Happy House** first opened in 1975 in the Ann Arbor Westgate Shopping Center, and started with just two aisles of Hallmark cards. Over the years, they have grown to become MORE than a Hallmark store. Because of the smiles of their team and loyal customers, they have expanded to Battle Creek. Proudly offering unique boutique finds, Vera Bradley, Disney collectables, and children's puzzles and games, as well as a variety of gifts for the holidays. Shop online at happyhousegifts.com, order curbside, or visit their stores where they'll be smiling at you behind their masks, and available to help you from six feet away!

Westgate shopping center: 2539 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor
(734) 662–9635 • happyhousegifts.com

What's not in short supply this holiday?

LOVE!

When shelves are empty, you can't go wrong with giving diamonds. They're always in style and go with everything. And at Lewis Jewelers, you will also find no price increases or diamond shortages, guaranteed!

Ready to make your holidays even more merry and bright?

SCAN THIS WITH YOUR SMART PHONE TO ENTER TO WIN A $1,000 LEWIS JEWELERS GIFT CARD

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"YOUR DIAMOND STORE"

2000 Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor
734.994.5111 | LewisJewelers.com
Visit our website for our holiday hours.

*This gift card is redeemable for new jewelry purchases only. It cannot be redeemed for cash and no change will be given. Cannot be used on existing layaways. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Some brands/designers may be excluded. This card is non-transferable and will expire on Dec. 31, 2021.

ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Music in the Key of A²

'21 CONCERT SEASON

Kazem Abdullah, conductor

Returning this December:

HOLIDAY POPS!

Kick off the holidays with some festive revelry, as conductor and music director candidate Kazem Abdullah hits the stage with a sleigh-full of audience favorites. **8pm, December 10 at Hill Auditorium**

Sponsored by: bank of ann arbor helps Tom & Debby McMullen

Sponsored in part by an award from michigan council arts cultural affairs

www.tickets.a2so.com | 734.994.4801 | A mask and proof of full vaccination (or a negative test taken within 3 days of the concert start) is required for entrance into our venues.

Through the Sponsorship of
Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation,
You Can Also Help...

WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing New Winter Clothing for Needy Children

Is a local non-profit sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation that annually provides new winter clothing for children.

We ask for your donation to support this vital program for children in Washtenaw County. 100% of your donation goes directly to providing clothing.

WAYS TO DONATE:

- **Online:** www.a2kiwanis.org/WarmTheChildren
- **Mail:** Warm The Children c/o Old National Bank
  2723 S. State Street, Suite 110
  Ann Arbor, MI 48104

OLD NATIONAL BANK

More information: mkcstewart61@gmail.com

BE A SHOPPER...
See the eyes of the children light up!

BE A DONOR...
Every dollar donated goes directly to the purchase of warm winter clothing for children of need.

Kiwanis
CLUB OF ANN ARBOR FOUNDATION, INC.

imagine
FITNESS & YOGA

Holiday Gift Giving

Guided classes in Yoga, Cycling, Pilates, Tai Chi and Strength Circuits virtual and live in the studio

SCHEDULE

6 Month Membership: $600*

15 Class Package: $150* (in studio or online)

*Valid for new clients only. Offer expires Dec 31., 2021

Our talented team includes Bert Lopez, Wendy Dolen, Stuart Eddy, Jackie Farah, John Farah, Caren LaBelle, Sam Lieberman, Sandra Allen, Sara Atwell, Marty Betts, JT Quon, Carmo Ribiero, Gail Rucker and Maureen Tyler.

Need more personal guidance?
Private session or massage packages
$435/6 sessions or **$840/12 sessions**

Call us to set up a visit and learn more about open gym and class opportunities.

ImagineFitnessAndYoga.com
3100 W. Liberty | 734-622-8119 | jackie@ImagineFitnessAndYoga.com

2021 Holiday Guide

Humane Society of Huron Valley

Give warm fuzzies this holiday season! Choose a unique gift from the **Humane Society of Huron Valley** to delight every animal-lover on your list. Whether you name an animal, sponsor a kennel, get a personalized paver, sponsor a whole van load of puppies, buy something from their store, get a gift certificate for adoption, or donate in someone's name, you're making a real difference for the homeless, injured, and abused animals right here, in our community. Your tax-deductible gift goes directly to care for the animals; HSHV has received Charity Navigator's topmost rating for fiscal management, accountability, and transparency. See more at HSHV.org/holiday or call to make a gift over the phone: (734) 661–3571.

3100 Cherry Hill Rd., Ann Arbor, (734) 662–5585 • HSHV.org

Imagine Fitness & Yoga

Imagine Fitness & Yoga wants to help you make health and wellness a lifestyle. Trainers and staff are skilled, dedicated, and ready to assist you in a non-competitive, friendly environment. At Imagine Fitness & Yoga you can expect first class, personalized treatment. A small and personal all-in-one fitness studio offering a variety of classes, Imagine Fitness and Yoga is the perfect all-in-one fitness place, locally owned since day one.

3100 W. Liberty Rd., Ann Arbor, (734) 622–8119
imaginefitnessandyoga.com

The Kitchen Loft

NOW OPEN! **The Kitchen Loft** is a curated kitchen boutique located on the second floor of Historic Kerrytown Market & Shops, adjacent to the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. Kitchen Loft has wonderful finds for the home cook and casual chef... gadgets, goodies, pots, pans, pantry items, baking supplies, aprons, tabletop and so much more! A great place for unique kitchen gifts to give or to purchase, or to find a wonderful new skillet you've been wanting for your home kitchen. Born from a love for cooking and a passion for retail, The Kitchen Loft is here to celebrate the kitchen with you! Gift cards are also available.

Located in Kerrytown Market & Shops, Second Floor: 407 N. 5th Ave., Ann Arbor • (734) 780–7087 • aakitchenloft.com

Kiwanis Thrift Sale

Donate and shop this holiday season at **The Kiwanis Thrift Sale** of Ann Arbor! The Holiday Gifts and Decorations Sale takes place every Friday and Saturday from November 5th–January 8th. Check out bargains on Christmas trees, seasonal gifts and decorations, household goods and furniture. Hours are Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Kiwanis helps kids in our community, and your contribution makes it possible. Kiwanis thanks you for your ongoing support!

100 N. Staebler Rd., Ann Arbor, (734) 665–0450 • kiwanissale.com

Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor, Warm the Children

Through the sponsorship of **Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor**, the **Warm the Children** program provides children with new warm clothing: coats, hats, boots, mittens and other essentials at the start of Michigan's winter season. Each year, school counselors and social workers in Washtenaw County refer children in need of warm clothing to this program. Since its founding in 1995, the program has served thousands of local children. During Covid-19, the need is greater for families and children. Your generous donation will keep the program running and provide a child with warm clothing. 100% of donations goes directly towards providing clothing. Donate online at a2kiwanis.org/warmthechildren or by mail.

2723 S. State St., Ste. 110, Ann Arbor 48104
(mail in donations accepted at this location)
a2kiwanis.org/warmthechildren

Lewis Jewelers

Give a one-of-a-kind gift this holiday at **Lewis Jewelers**. Custom design appointments or private showroom shopping is available, and can be scheduled online or by calling the store. Shop OMEGA, Hearts On Fire, Tacori, and more fine brands. Not sure what jewelry to buy? A Lewis Jewelers gift card is something that fits perfectly every time, and won't be returned. Visit lewisjewelers.com to shop online 24/7, and have your gift shipped to your door, or pick up curbside.

2000 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, (734) 994–5111 • lewisjewelers.com

Mainstreet Ventures Restaurant Group

Featuring lively destinations in downtown Ann Arbor, the **Mainstreet Ventures Restaurant Group** eateries stand out with landmark locations, memorable facilities, and exceptional dining experiences. Savor exceptional cuts of USDA prime beef that are the perfect combination of flavor and tenderness at The Chop House. After dinner, enjoy gourmet desserts and specialty cocktails at La Dolce Vita. Real Seafood Co. is a contemporary seafood restaurant offering fresh fish and seafood from the waters of New England, the Great Lakes, and Gulf of Mexico. Carson's American Bistro offers a wide array of American favorites & has a happy hour that is unparalleled in town. Palio is a rustic country Italian restaurant with Ann Arbor's largest and most popular rooftop patio.

15 Research Dr., Ann Arbor, (888) 456–3463
mainstreetventuresinc.com

Michigan Theater Foundation

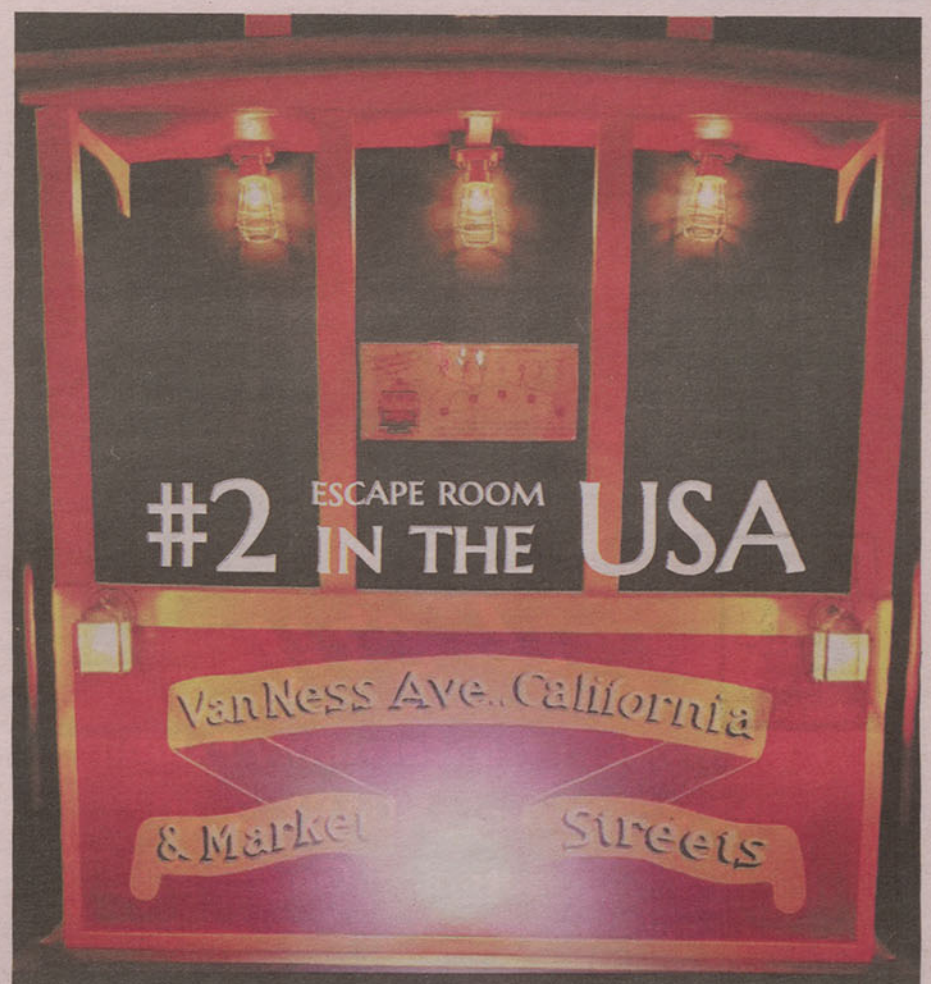
Ring in the holiday season at the **Michigan and State Theater**! Celebrate with their holiday classics series, which features *A Christmas Story* (Dec. 5), Elf (Dec. 12), and *It's A Wonderful Life* (Dec. 19). Bring the kids to watch Elsa on the big screen, with *Frozen* on Dec. 26. Join the Michigan Theater Foundation community as a member, or give the gift of membership! As a Michigan Theater Foundation member, you will help ensure that the Michigan and State Theater continue to thrive well into the future and save money every time you join them at the movies.

603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor, (734) 668–8397 • michtheater.org

When you **name an animal** at the Humane Society of Huron Valley, you're not only honoring a special someone, you're making a major difference in the life of a needy animal.

For more gift ideas that pay it forward, see **hshv.org/holiday**

Humane Society of Huron Valley
3100 Cherry Hill Rd, Ann Arbor
P: 734.662.5585



NEW ADVENTURE AT DECODE ANN ARBOR
Book at DecodeAnnArbor.com | 313-438-8054
Masks required.

Celebrate the Christmas Season with Westminster

Advent Series: "Close to Home"
11/28, 12/05, 12/12, 12/19 at 11am
12/19: All Ages Christmas Pageant

Caroling and Cocoa
12/15 at 7pm, Westminster Parking Lot

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
12/24 at 7pm

Comfy Christmas
12/26 at 11am, Wear your Christmas PJ's!

Westminster Presbyterian, 1500 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor 48103

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

No matter where you are on your faith journey, or how you worship, we welcome you to celebrate Christmas with us. This includes all races and ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, ages and stages of life, abilities and disabilities, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Worship With Us on Christmas Eve!
Downtown outdoors, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. | Indoors at 7:30 p.m. & livestreamed on YouTube at FUMCannarbor
Green Wood indoors, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.

120 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
1001 Green Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

2021 Holiday Guide

Mighty Good Coffee Roasting Company

Elevate your coffee experience. **Mighty Good Coffee** invites you to visit the MGC Mercantile at their Main Street roasting headquarters where they are going back to basics sharing the finest, freshest coffees with you as pour-overs, drips, cold brews, and nitro on tap. Come taste the freshest roasts, learn about where the coffee is coming from, expand your coffee palate at their free tasting events, and grab a bag or two to take home. Can't make it into the shop? Check out their Free Friday Home Delivery option online at mightygoodcoffee.com.

217 N. Main St., Ann Arbor, (734) 222–4514 • mightygoodcoffee.com

The Produce Station

The Produce Station now offers "no-touch" curbside service and local grocery delivery—orders can be placed by phone, email or via the website. Fresh food is brought in daily, including produce, meat, bread, cheese and dairy. Order anything you would normally purchase in store, including beer and wine. Local grocery delivery is available, including prepared foods for same-day delivery Monday–Sunday. Now available: curbside beer service! Check their website for the beer in stock, call and ask for curbside beer service. Stock up on holiday wines today–wine selection by Hugo Ristow.

1629 S. State St., Ann Arbor, (734) 663–7848 • producestation.com

Randazzo Dance Company

"The Short and Suite Nutcracker" is **Randazzo Dance Company's** holiday kaleidoscope of mixed dance styles coupled with the magic of the Nutcracker Suite. First half of the program includes La Cinquantaine, a delicate and regal air from the olden times performed by the junior company dancers, Pas De Quatre ballet variations capturing the essence of the delicate Romantic style, and a Tribute to Miles Davis, tap and jazz dances performed with a live jazz combo to celebrate the music of the great Miles Davis. On the second half of the program Clara and the Nutcracker Prince recount their fight with the evil Mouse Queen and travel to the enchanted land where they meet the Sugar Plum Fairy, Mother Ginger and her little Gumdrops and other beloved friends.

Dates: December 10 at 7 p.m., December 11 at 3 p.m., December 12 at 3 p.m.
Power Center: 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor, (734) 763–3333
(734) 477–9350 • randazzodancecompany.com

RoosRoast Coffee

Shop Ann Arbor's absolute favorite #deeplocal coffee, **RoosRoast Coffee**, the number one selling coffee by far in all Ann Arbor groceries. Safe shopping at RoosRoast.com: You can build a coffee gift box and send it through the mail, or waive the shipping and pick it up at the Rosewood location. Half pounds are back for the holidays (handprinted bags at $8), so get your large or bulk gift orders in early! Last year, people started hoarding the Holiday Blend, despite their obsession with Lobster Butter Love, and it's back! The Rosewood cafe is SOLAR POWERED!

1155 Rosewood St., Ann Arbor, (734) 222–9202
117 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor, (734) 369–2494
RoosRoast.com

The Salvation Army

As the challenges of the pandemic continue, families living in poverty are facing fears. They're afraid of hunger. They're afraid of eviction. But they're not afraid of hard work. When even two jobs aren't enough, they find a way to keep going for their families. When you give to **The Salvation Army**, you help their hopes outpace their fears. Just $25 a month helps hardworking families fend off homelessness. Keep hope marching on.

100 Arbana Dr., Ann Arbor, (734) 668–8353 • washtenawsa.org

Sword Seafood Company

Sword Seafood Company is a family-owned operation that harvests seafood in the most sustainable way. On their historic vessel, Sword, they catch fish through hook and line methods … one fish at a time. This is "the old way" of fishing and it means that they don't use nets, and that they produce the highest quality seafood available. Sword Seafood's local fish club in Ann Arbor meets four times a year and repeat orders are not required. Consider giving the gift of halibut, coho salmon, shrimp, or smoked strips this holiday season—and put it on your wish list too! Orders are due by December 8th for the December 11th pick-up.

(320) 266–4077 • swordseafood.com

UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum

Travel around the world right here in Ann Arbor at The Greenhouse Gallery, **UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum**'s holiday exhibit! The conservatory will be decked out with decorated evergreen trees themed to the exhibit, and includes a large tree made from poinsettias. Featuring three climate zones: tropical, temperate, and arid, the conservatory will be full of plants from around the world. A perfect escape from the winter chill, the exhibit runs November 26–January 9. Stop by the well-stocked gift shop, which features many locally sourced and sustainable items available for purchase.

1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, (734) 647–7600 • mbgna.umich.edu

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Westminster seeks to show the love of Jesus Christ by welcoming everyone, without exception, into the full life of the church. Join them Sundays in Advent for their series: "Close to Home." Westminster has several upcoming events available for all age groups: Caroling and Cocoa on Wednesday, December 15 at 7 p.m. in the Westminster parking lot, and All Ages Christmas Pageant on December 19 at 11 a.m. Sign up for Deacons' Christmas Baskets, a program to provide gifts for local families this holiday.

1500 Scio Church Rd., Ann Arbor, (734) 761–9320 • westpresa2.org

Elevate holiday spirits with uplifting in-home care

- Light housekeeping
- Preparing for guests
- Holiday meal preparation
- Gift wrapping
- Shopping and transportation
- Decorating assistance

Comfort Keepers. Elevating the Human Spirit

(734) 418-9186
AnnArbor.ComfortKeepers.com
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Now offering gift certificates for care of a loved one!

Deck the Halls!
Shop at the Kiwanis Thrift Sale!
Holiday Gifts, Decorations & Toys Sale
November 5 - January 8 | Fridays and Saturdays from 9 am - 1 pm

Kiwanis Thrift Sale

Kiwanis will be closed Dec. 24-25, 2021 & Sat., Jan. 1, 2022

100 N. Staebler Rd. off W. Jackson Rd.
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Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. ***Up-to-date schedules are posted at AnnArborObserver.com,*** *but it may be advisable to call ahead. Due to the still unabated* ***Covid-19 pandemic,*** *schedules are even more tentative than usual. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.*

bluegrass

Nefesh Mountain: Bluegrassish

Bluegrass with a Jewish tinge

LAWRENCE RICKFORD

In the early 1970s, Henry Sapoznik, a young New York musicologist and budding banjo player, was studying Appalachian music. He made frequent trips to North Carolina to sit at the feet of noted traditional fiddler, Tommy Jarrell.

Jarrell, observing that Sapoznik was one of a number of young Jewish musicians making the same pilgrimage, finally asked, "Don't your people got none of your own music?"

The question changed Sapoznik's life. While continuing to study and play the old- time music he loved, he also began researching his own heritage and went on to become a pioneering scholar and performer of klezmer music and played a major role in its revival.

Like Sapoznik, Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg are young New York Jewish musicians with a love of Appalachian music, specifically bluegrass, one of the main genres that music spawned. As the duo Nefesh Mountain, they have found their own way of answering Jarrell's question: Rather than exploring both styles separately, as Sapoznik did, they meld bluegrass with the Jewish legacy they inherited. Their songs, which often set Hebrew lyrics from the prayers and Psalms to driving bluegrass rhythms and melodies, are equally approachable from the vantage point of either tradition.

In addition to the virtuosic, high-octane propulsion of traditional bluegrass and the cutting-edge harmonies of modern newgrass, their music also incorporates contemporary folk, pop, Celtic, and Eastern European influences. Their shows feature wide-ranging medleys that include "Calum Sgaire," a Scottish fiddle tune; James Taylor's "You Can Close Your Eyes;" gospel standards like "Down to the River to Pray;" their setting of "Modeh Ani," the Jewish morning prayer of gratitude; and a syncopated, joyous, chorus of hallelujahs. Their most recent album, *A Hanukkah Holiday Concert,* which they livestreamed from the Levon Helm Studios last December, features the classic "Donna Donna," Dylan's "I Shall Be Released," and three Woody Guthrie Hanukkah songs—klezmer-styled settings of Guthrie lyrics by the Klezmatics.

Lindberg sings with a soulful, smoky tenor, and picks guitar and banjo like nobody's business, while Zasloff's rich, expressive alto is the ideal vehicle for the wide range of dynamics and moods their music encompasses. The married couple's close vocal harmonies are as tight as the genetically shaped sounds of the best family bands.

Last September, in time for the Jewish New Year, Nefesh (which means "soul" in Hebrew) released a video of their cover of an Allen Reynolds tune. The more than forty-year-old song is still eerily fitting for our times: "It's been a too long time with no peace of mind/I'm ready for the times to get better." Besides their superb musicianship, that song, like much of their repertoire, exemplifies Nefesh Mountain's commitment to creating healing, authentic music out of both their legacy and their adopted tradition.

Nefesh Mountain will make their Ark debut on Tuesday, December 7, accompanied by Alan Grubner on fiddle, David Goldenberg on mandolin, and Sam Weber on bass. They will also give a lecture/performance at Eastern Michigan's Student Center auditorium on Wednesday, December 8 (see Events listing).

—Sandor Slomovits

The Ark

316 S. Main 761–1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m. Mon.–Sat. & 7:30 p.m. Sun., unless otherwise noted. Tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and TheArk.org, and at the door. ***Note:*** *Proof of vaccination and masks required.* **Dec. 2: Steve Poltz.** The former lead singer of the Rugburns, Poltz is best known as the coauthor of Jewel's hit single "You Were Meant for Me." He's also a famously enchanting live performer who works without a set list to be free to respond to the mood of a room. $20. **Dec. 3: Arlo McKinley.** Soulful Americana folk-rock by this Cincinnati singer-songwriter. Opener: **Justin Wells,** a Lexington (KY) alt-country and roots-rock singer-songwriter. $20. **Dec. 5: Andy McKee.** Celebrated fingerstyle guitar virtuoso from Topeka whose live performance of his signature song "Drifting" garnered over 50 million YouTube views. His repertoire includes pop-folk covers of everyone from Tears for Fears to Michael Hedges, along with many originals. Opener: **Trevor Gordon Hall,** an acclaimed fingerstyle composer-guitarist from Philadelphia whose music is known for its highly textured soundscapes. $25. **Dec. 6: Charlie Parr and Dead Horses.** Double bill. Parr is a country-blues singer-songwriter from Minnesota whose influences range from Charley Patton and Dock Boggs to Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly. His repertoire also includes several traditional spirituals, and he accompanies himself on 12-string and resonator guitars, fretless banjo, and his own stomping foot. Dead Horses is an Oshkosh (WI) folk quintet fronted by guitarist Sarah Vos, a singer-songwriter whose engaging coming-of-age story songs are set to music that draws imaginatively on old-time, gospel, bluegrass, and Midwest Americana idioms. They recently opened for The Who. $20. **Dec. 7: Nefesh Mountain.** *(See review to the right.)* Bluegrass-based Americana quartet fronted by the husband-and-wife duo of vocalist Doni Zasloff and banjoist & guitarist Eric Lindberg. The band is best known for its incorporation of Jewish musical styles into a traditional bluegrass idiom, and they often sing in Hebrew. $20. **Dec. 8: Stephen Kellogg.** Popular Massachusetts singer-songwriter known for his impassioned, radio-friendly Americana-tinged pop-rock. "Stephen is a classic songwriter with a thoroughly modern approach: literate, melodic, passionate, and fresh," says Rosanne Cash. $25. **Dec. 10 & 11: 14th Annual Ebird & Friends Holiday Show.** Erin Zindle, the fiery fiddling frontwoman of the classy local eclectic band the Ragbirds who has also released a solo CD, *Scenes from the Fragile, Agile Avian World,* is joined by several established and up-and-coming luminaries of the Michigan music scene for her very popular annual program of new and old holiday music, now in its 14th year. $35. 8 p.m. (Dec. 10 & 11) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 11). **Dec. 12: Dar Williams.** Acclaimed pop-folk singer-songwriter from western Massachusetts who has been a huge favorite with local audiences ever since her performance at the 1996 Ann Arbor Folk Festival. She sings in a sweet, ringing soprano, and her brightly melodic songs feature sophisticated, vividly insightful, and often tartly humorous lyrics on a wide range of personal and social themes. Opener: **Emily Scott Robinson,** a Colorado singer-songwriter with a pristine soprano voice whom *Rolling Stone* named one of the "10 New Country and Americana Artists You Need to Know" for 2019. She recently released her debut CD, *American Siren.* $35. **Dec. 17: Mick Gavin's Crossroads Ceili.** An evening of Celtic music, song, and dance hosted by veteran Detroit Irish fiddler (and County Clare native) Gavin, with an assortment of guest performers TBA. $20. **Dec. 18: Blackthorn.** This veteran Royal Oak quartet plays a wide range of Celtic music, from contemporary Irish songs and traditional songs of emigration to sea shanties, lively jigs and reels, and haunting ancient airs. $20.

Bel-Mark Lanes

3530 Jackson 994–8433

The café inside this westside bowling alley features occasional live music. Karaoke, Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Dec. 26: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late 1930s swing and 1940s R&B. 6–8 p.m.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. 996–8555

This local club, renovated during its long Covid-enforced hiatus, features live music most Wed.–Sat. and occasional other nights, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Cover, dancing. Advance tickets sold at the 8 Ball Saloon (below the club) and at BlindPigMusic.com/calendar. **Dec. 1: Chris Webby.** *All ages admitted.* Connecticut rapper whose 2014 album *Chemically Imbalanced* peaked at #2 on the *Billboard* R&B chart. Openers: **Dizzy Wright,** a Las Vegas hip-hop rapper, and **Ekoh,** a Las Vegas underground hip-hop MC. $28–$278. **Dec. 3: "Wintr Forml '21."** Details TBA. $10–$12. 8 p.m.–1 a.m. **Dec. 4: Jackamo, Josie Palmer, and Lucas Powell.** Triple bill of Detroit pop-folk singer-songwriters. (Jackamo is a duo.) $10. **Dec. 9: The Buzztop Studios Music School Concert.** *All ages admitted.* Performance by rock bands comprised of students at this Lakeland music school. $5. **Dec. 10: Slum Village.** *All ages admitted.* Detroit hip-hop duo. Opener: **Abstract Mindstate,** the veteran lyric-driven Chicago hip-hop duo of female emcee E.P the Hellcat and male emcee Olskool Ice-Gre. $20. **Dec. 11: "Christmas Jingle X."** With **Dark Rising, Cicrus, General 11, Stompbox,** and **The Pink 50s.** $15. 8 p.m.–1:30 a.m. **Dec. 16: Otto Parts.** Local classic punk-rock & psychobilly cover band. Openers: **Lawn Care,** a local rock 'n' roll quartet, and **Highdea,** a Kalamazoo electrofunk-reggae jam trio. $10. **Dec. 17: "Super Fly Toy Drive."** A benefit for Toys for Tots with **area hip-hop acts Flight Team, DJ Nitro, Nadim Azzam, Case Move, J Classic, London Beck, Cain Perez,** and **Rico Jeep.** $10. **Dec. 30–Jan. 1: "New Year's Eve Before During, & After Bash."** Headliner is **Stormy Chromer,** a popular local progressive jam-rock quartet. The lineup of local openers includes the jazz-inflected progressive funk-rock quartet **Chirp,** the rock, blues, and funk quintet **Act Casual,** the versatile local horn-fired funk sextet **Sabbatical Bob,** the rock 'n' roll quartet **ZZvava,** the psych-rock garage band **Warlock's Grave,** the self-styled "soulful music collective" **VioletSol,** hip-hop MC **Tru Klassick** and MC **Kadence,** the post-hip-hop synth-pop dance music **Beanstalk,** and the electronic downtempo dance musician **Scüter.** $20 (3-day pass, $50).

The Blue LLama

314 S. Main 372–3200

This jazz club/restaurant features live music Tues. 7–9:30 p.m., Wed.–Fri., 7–10:15 p.m., & Sat. dinner show 7–10:15 p.m. $10 cover on Tues.–Fri.; reservations recommended at OpenTable.com or by calling the club. Sat. ticket price (variable) includes a 7-course dinner; advance tickets available at BlueLLamaClub.com. No dancing except for Wed. Latin jazz shows and as otherwise noted. **Dec. 1: Cuarteto Escobar.** Latin dance music drawn from the cultural history of Latin America by this ensemble of members of the Detroit-based Cuban salsa outfit Grupo Escobar. **Dec. 2: Andrew Rathburn Septet.** Jazz ensemble led by Rathburn, a Toronto-bred saxophonist whose music is rooted in improvisatory post-bop. **Dec. 3: The McKinney Zone.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit drummer Gayelynn McKinney. **Dec. 4: Aguanko.** Local Afro-Cuban jazz ensemble led by composer-percussionist Alberto Nacif. **Dec. 7: Hannah Baiardi & Friends.** Jazz ensemble led by Baiardi, a recent U-M music school grad and pop-jazz composer-pianist whose music blends elements of soul, R&B, and film music. **Dec. 8: Armando Vega & the 313.** Latin salsa by this ensemble led by Detroit singer and conga player Vega. **Dec. 9: Anthony Stanco Quintet.** Local jazz ensemble led by trumpeter Stanco. **Dec. 10: Paxton/Spangler Township Jazz Septet.** Veteran Detroit drummer RJ Spangler and trombonist-vocalist Tbone Paxton lead a band of area musicians in swing, modern jazz, and swinging blues. **Dec. 11: Samara Joy.** Jazz ensemble led by 21-year-old NYC vocalist Joy, winner of the 2019 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition. $85. 6 & 8:30 p.m. **Dec. 14: Kanola.** New Orleans–style jazz ensemble from Kalamazoo. **Dec. 15: Aguanko.** See above. **Dec. 16: Soul Cycle.** Detroit quartet whose music draws on jazz, funk, and R&B idioms. **Dec. 17 & 18: Kurt Elling.** Elling is a celebrated jazz vocalist from Chicago with a rich, octave-leaping baritone who possesses

awesome command of rhythm, texture, phrasing, and dynamics, often sounding more like a virtuoso jazz musician than a mere singer, and his idiosyncratic blend of soulful crooning, scat, vocalese, and spoken-word improvisations provoked Artie Shaw to call him "the most interesting and innovative jazz singer to come along in years." Tonight he showcases material from his recent OKeh Records debut, ***The Beautiful Day: Kurt Elling Sings Christmas,*** a collection mixing freshly arranged traditional carols with reimagined seasonal standards. $110. 6 & 8:30 p.m. **Dec. 21: Alex Harding & Organ Nation.** Jazz organ trio led by Harding, a veteran Detroit baritone saxophonist known for his bluesy, church-steeped style. **Dec. 22: Urban Tropical.** Latin jazz ensemble. **Dec. 23: Sean Dobbins.** Local jazz ensemble led by drummer Dobbins. **Dec. 28: Jonathan Taylor Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by local drummer Taylor. **Dec. 29: LL 7 Latin Jazz.** Acclaimed veteran Detroit Latin jazz septet. **Dec. 30: Oliver Mayman Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by drummer Mayman, a recent Community/Huron High grad. **Dec. 31: Low Down Brass Band.** 8-piece horn band from Chicago whose music layers dancehall and street rhythms with elements drawn from hip-hop, jazz, reggae, and soul. $150 (early show) & $300 (late show). 6 & 9 p.m.

The Club Above

215 N. Main 686–4012

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features occasional live music, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. or later (doors at 9 p.m.). Dancing, cover. Age 21 & older admitted. **Every Fri.** (except Dec. 24)**: Latin Night.** DJ dance party. **Dec. 4: "Bridging the Gap."** Hip-hop showcase with several local acts TBA. Remainder of December schedule TBA.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main 665–2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 5:30–8 p.m. or later. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session.

Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti 657–2337

This downtown Ypsilanti theater features occasional live music. Cover (usually a donation), dancing. ***Note:*** *Masks required; some available at the door.* December schedule TBA.

The Habitat Lounge

3050 Jackson Rd. 665–3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features live jazz Fri. & Sat. 9–11 p.m., and occasional dance bands. Dancing, no cover. **Fri. & Sat.: Eventjazz.** Jazz originals and standards by a local ensemble led by singer-bassist Rob Crozier.

LIVE

102 S. First St. 623–1443

This lounge features live music Fri. happy hour (late Aug.–early June), 6:30–9 p.m., and occasional evenings. Also, DJs, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. *Proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required.* **Dec. 3: "Meet the Beatles."** Detroit Beatles tribute band fronted by vocalist James Wailin. With keyboardist Tom Loncaric, guitarist Steve Caldwell, bassist Chris Spooner, and drummer John Hill. **Dec. 10: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. **Dec. 17: Spark.** Local pop-rock quartet fronted by vocalist Robin Grant. With guitarist John Rasmussen, bassist Cy Clone, and drummer Jim Weyman. **Dec. 24:** TBA. **Dec. 31: The Invasion.** British Invasion cover quartet from Redford led by singer-guitarist David Roof.

Mash

211 E. Washington 222–4095

This lounge in the basement of the Blue Tractor tavern features live music Thurs. 8 p.m.–midnight and Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Weekend happy hour music, 6–9 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 2: Cetan Clawson.** Monroe psychedelic blues-rock trio. **Dec. 3: Mia Green.** Young Detroit-area pop-folk singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 3: Dave Menzo Band.** Ensemble led by local pop-rock singer-songwriter Menzo. **Dec. 4: Matt Gabriel.** Grand Rapids singer-songwriter whose music draws on an eclectic mix of genres, from pop and rock to folk and country. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 4: The Machine.** Local trio, featuring former Bluescasters Phil Ryski and Doug Wolgat along with drummer John Crawford, playing rock 'n' roll dance tunes. **Dec. 9: Pajamas.** Local pop-rock jam trio. **Dec. 10: Jason Dean.** Local postmodern pop singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 10: Twenty TwentyFour.** Toledo ensemble whose music is an eclectic, danceable mix of jazz, funk, R&B, soul, and rock. **Dec. 11: Matt Gabriel.** See above. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 11: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Dec. 16: Pajamas.** See above. **Dec. 17: Matt Gabriel.** See above. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 17: Dave Menzo Band.** See above. **Dec. 18: Nick Orr.** Local singer-songwriter & guitarist, a member of the funk-rock jam quartet Pajamas. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 18: Chris Canas Band.** Detroit blues band fronted by blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist Canas. **Dec. 23: Pajamas.** See above. **Dec. 30: Cetan Clawson.** See above. **Dec. 31: Chris Canas Band.** See above.

Mash Ypsilanti

400 W. River, Ypsilanti 441–6200

This new bar in the Thompson Building in Depot Town features live music Thurs. 6 p.m.–midnight, Fri. & Sat. 6 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. December schedule TBA.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty 441–6200

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 3 nights a week, Mon., Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional live shows. Cover, dancing. Advance tickets (when available) are at necto.com/special-events.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard 662–8283

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music 1st & 2nd Tues. and every Thurs. 7:30–9:30 p.m. Cover by donation, no dancing. **Dec. 7: "Songwriters Open Mic."** All songwriters invited for an online version of this popular open mic, now in its 25th year. Hosted by Jim Novak. For online info, and to reserve a performing slot, see meetup.com/Ozs-Music-Songwriters-Open-Mic. **Dec. 14: "Anything Goes Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited for an online version of this popular open mic. Hosted by Jim Novak. For online info and to reserve a performing slot, see meetup.com/Ozs-Music-Songwriters-Open-Mic.

The Ravens Club

207 S. Main 214–0400

This downtown bar & grill features live jazz, Sun. 7:30–10:30 p.m. $5 cover, no dancing. **Dec. 5: Tim Haldeman Quartet.** Blues- and bebop-based jazz in a variety of styles and forms by this local ensemble led by saxophonist Haldeman. **Dec. 12: Palm Grease.** Local jazz-funk fusion ensemble with saxophonist Bobby Streng, guitarist Kris Kurzawa, bassist Damon Warmack, and drummer Jesse Kramer. **Dec. 19: Morgan's Organ.** Local jazz organ trio led by organist Dale Grisa. With guitarist Ralph Tope and drummer Jesse Kramer. **Dec. 26:** No music.

Ypsi Alehouse

124 Pearl, #100, Ypsilanti 487–1555

This brewpub features live music Tues.–Thurs. 7–9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 8–10 p.m., & Sun. 2–4 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 1: Mary Ann Kirt.** Pop-folk and indie rock originals by this local singer-guitarist. 6–8 p.m. **Dec. 2: Daring Detour.** Acoustic duo lead by local singer-songwriter (and Sweet Melissa guitarist) DeVeaux Gauger. **Dec. 3: Pearl Street String Band.** Versatile acoustic quartet whose repertoire includes traditional jigs, reels, waltzes and airs from Irish, French-Canadian, New England and Southern/old-time sources, and more. 5–7 p.m. **Dec. 3: Double Take.** Hartland rock 'n' roll trio. **Dec. 4: Malty Taskers Jug Band.** Old-time music from blues and country to hokum. 5–7 p.m. **Dec. 4: Milan Seth.** This Cool Birds singer-guitarist hosts a song circle with **Kate Steih** and other singer-songwriters TBA. **Dec. 9: Norm Andresen & Friends.** Toe-tapping rock 'n' roll ensemble led by local singer-guitarist Andresen. **Dec. 10: Sweet Melissa.** High-energy local dance quintet fronted by Georgia-bred vocalist Melissa Bruzzano whose music blends rock, funk, urban, Americana, and other genres. 5–7 p.m. **Dec. 10: Smokey Grey.** Local acoustic rock quartet. **Dec. 11: The Sound Dogs.** An eclectic, danceable mix of blues, jazz, and vintage rock by this local sextet led by guitarist Jack Scheerer and fronted by his wife, vocalist Surry Scheerer. 5–7 p.m. **Dec. 11: Poor Player.** Detroit country-flavored folk-rock Americana quartet. **Dec. 16: Phil McMillion & the Huron Horn Quartet.** Holiday music by a local French horn ensemble fronted by vocalist McMillion. **Dec. 17: Jill & Wolf.** Classic covers and originals by the husband-and-wife acoustic duo of Jill and Wolf Reuter. 5–7 p.m. **Dec. 17: 42 North.** Acoustic trio from Clinton that plays vintage pop, country, folk, and rock covers and some originals. With vocalist Joyce Lancaster, bassist John Freeland, and David Kass on guitar and harmonica. **Dec. 18: Bark's Tales & Friends.** Local Americana rock 'n' roll ensemble led by singer-songwriter & percussionist Mike Snyder-Barker. 5–7 p.m. **Dec. 18: Eric Moore.** Local singer-songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist whose music draws on blues, folk balladry, and folk-rock. **Dec. 19: Kate & KNein.** A pair of Chicago musicians who have teamed up as a duo while making their way to NYC. 4–6 p.m. **Dec. 23: McLaughlin's Alley.** Detroit Irish-tinged pop-rock quintet fronted by sibling singer-songwriters Tina and Maureen Paraventi. **Dec. 28: John Remmers.** Local ragtime pianist. 6–8 p.m. **Dec. 29: Norm & Sandy.** Local duo of singer-guitarists. **Dec. 30: McLaughlin's Alley.** See above.

Zal Gaz Grotto

2070 W. Stadium 663–1202

This Masonic social and service club features live music Mon. & Tues. 5:30–8 p.m. & most Thurs.–Sat. 7–10 p.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 14-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest college student ensemble. **Every Tues.: Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this veteran local ensemble led by trombonist Terry Kimura. **Every Wed.** (except Dec. 8)**: Keller/Kocher & Co.** Straight-ahead jazz by this top-notch local ensemble led by vibes player Kocher and bassist Keller. 6–8 p.m. **Dec. 3: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Popular local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style blends elements of Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. The band's latest CD is *Big Sexee.* **Dec. 4:** Private party. **Dec. 10: Billy Mack & the Juke Joint Johnnies.** Roots-rock quartet, led by former Starlight Drifters singer-guitarist Mack, whose repertoire includes originals and rockabilly, early rock 'n' roll, western swing, and hillbilly bop covers. **Dec. 11: Otter River.** Local outlaw & classic country sextet. **Dec. 17:** Private party. **Dec. 18: She-Bop.** Local girl-group–style trio of singer-guitarist Laurie Lounsbury, singer-French hornist Morgan LaMonica, and a new lead vocalist TBA. With guitarist Johnny Rasmussen, bassist Al Kalaf, and drummer T. Kinks Heiss. **Dec. 31: The Cellar Cats.** An eclectic mix of rock 'n' roll, Motown, blues, soul, R&B, progressive rock, and swing by this ensemble of veteran local musicians fronted by singer-flutist Patty O'Connor, who plays keyboards and flute. With guitarist and harmonica player Myron Grant, guitarist Phil Ryski, keyboardist Mark Wight, bassist Terry Gordinier, drummer John Marion, and Charles Dayringer on congas, clarinet, and sax. 10 p.m.–1 a.m.

Ziggy's

206 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti
ZiggysYpsi.com

This downtown Ypsilanti coffeehouse-bar features live music on its outdoor patio most Fri. & Sat. and occasional other nights, 8–11 p.m. Cover (usually), dancing. December schedule TBA.

212 South 4th Avenue
Downtown Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor's Original and Only All Comedy Nightclub Since 1984
We go beyond the strict Covid-19 guidelines given by the State of Michigan and the Health Department. Our showroom, tables, chairs, bar, bathrooms, and all active spaces are first disinfected then sanitized before each show. We are absolutely dedicated to the health and safety of our patrons, employees and comedians.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN!
Open Mic Comedy Jamm
Thursday Nights
7:30pm

Zach Martina
December 3 & 4

Mike Geeter
December 10 & 11
Comedy Rumble - December 16
Thursday 7:30pm
Larry Reeb
December 17 & 18

December 23, 24, & 25
Closed for Christmas Celebration

Jenny Zigrino
December 31
SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT
NEW YEAR'S EVE
SHOWTIMES
Thursday 7:30pm
Friday 7:30
Saturday 7:30 & 9:30 pm
212 South 4th Avenue
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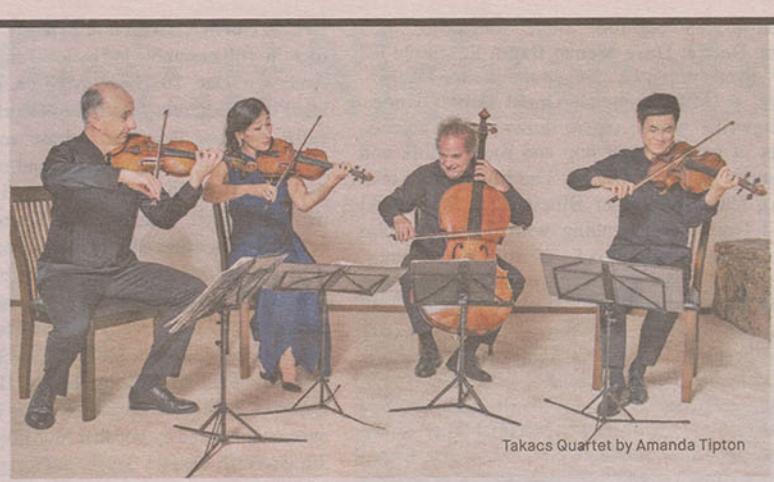
Kyle Abraham by Donovan Reed


Takacs Quartet by Amanda Tipton

Julien Labro

JLCO Frank Stewart

Handel's Messiah

2021/22 Season

Looking *Forward*

Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Weekend!

Big Band Holidays with Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Wynton Marsalis

Sun Nov 28 // 6 pm // Hill Auditorium

Takács Quartet with Julien Labro, bandoneón

Fri Dec 3 // 8 pm // Rackham Auditorium

The Takács Quartet returns for a special collaboration with accordion and bandoneón player Julien Labro, including the world premiere of two new works by Clarice Assad and Bryce Dessner.

Permanently Endowed Support: **Ilene H. Forsyth Chamber Arts Endowment Fund** and **Carl Cohen**

Media Partner: **WRCJ 90.9 FM**

Handel's *Messiah*

UMS Choral Union and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra

Sat Dec 4 // 7:30 pm // Hill Auditorium
Sun Dec 5 // 2 pm // Hill Auditorium

Reconnect and welcome the holiday season with the UMS Choral Union and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra in a beloved performance of Handel's *Messiah*, a staple Ann Arbor tradition returning post-pandemic.

Media Partners: **WRCJ 90.9 FM**, **Michigan Radio 91.7 FM**, and **Ann Arbor's 107one**

Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth

A new work by Kyle Abraham and Jlin | A.I.M

Fri-Sat Jan 7-8 // 8 pm // Power Center

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter protests, choreographer Kyle Abraham and pioneering producer and EDM artist Jlin transform Mozart's Requiem into an innovative electronic opus exploring death, folklore, and reincarnation from an explicitly Black perspective.

Co-Commissioned by *UMS, the Mostly Mozart Festival, Lincoln Center, and Stanford Live*

Presenting Sponsor: M | MICHIGAN MEDICINE

Supporting Sponsors: **Anne and Paul Glendon**

Media Partners: **WEMU 89.1 FM**, **WDET 101.9 FM**, and **Ann Arbor's 107one**

Note: Proof of vaccination or negative COVID PCR test is required for all live performances. Audiences will be required to wear masks for the performance. Visit **ums.org/safety** for details.

For tickets call **734.764.2538** or visit **ums.org**

December Events

NIGHTSPOTS

58 Music this month
John Hinchey

SENIORS

62 Events for older adults
Ella Bourland & Michael Bright

GALLERIES

68 Exhibits this month
Ella Bourland

FILMS

71 Viewings this month
Ella Bourland & Michael Bright

KIDS CALENDAR

72 Events for kids 12 and under
Ella Bourland & Michael Bright

TIPS FOR READING

This month's calendar includes both online and in-person events. Due to the **Covid-19 pandemic,** all listed in-person events are contingent upon the venue's operational status. Published events reflect plans as of press day (18 November), while the most up-to-date calendar is available at **AnnArborObserver.com.**

Our online calendar is not only an expanded version of the print calendar but is also continually updated and searchable. It includes listings, submitted by the public, of classes, religious services, political activities, and other types of events not suitable for print.

★ Denotes a free event

All phone numbers have area code (734), unless otherwise noted.

Recurrent events are listed only on the date of their 1st occurrence, except for performing arts, which are always listed on each day they occur. Thus, the first week of each month will always contain information about events throughout the month.

We want to know about your event!

Please send us your press release by the **10th day of the preceding month.**

- **Email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **Phone:** 769–3175

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor entertainment and other leisure events, but we also list activities elsewhere in Washtenaw County deemed of interest to our readers.

Please submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the 10th might not be included in the print calendar but will be added to our online calendar at **AnnArborObserver.com.** Due to space limitations, many listings, especially for weekday daytime and recurrent events, appear only in the online calendar.

Tickets for events highlighted in yellow are available at a2tix.com.

1 WEDNESDAY

★**Holiday Artist Market: The Guild of Artists & Artisans.** *Every Tues.–Sat., Nov. 26–Dec. 23.* Holiday sale of works in various media and styles by over 60 jury-selected artists. *11 a.m.–5 p.m. (Tues.–Thurs.) & 11 a.m.–7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), Gutman Gallery, 118 N. Fourth Ave. Free admission. 662–3382, elizabeth@TheGuild.org.*

★**Chime Concert: Kerrytown Market & Shops.** *Every Wed., Fri., & Sat.* All invited to play one of 200 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell chime's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Kids welcome. *Noon–12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.) & 10:30–11 a.m. (Sat.). Kerrytown Market. Free. ofGlobal@aol.com.*

★**Board Game Night: Bløm Meadworks.** *Every Wed.* All invited to play popular board games. "Board Game Guru" on hand to answer questions. *5–8 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but proof of vaccination required to sit indoors; outdoor seating available. 548–9729.*

"Understanding Our Natural Capacity for Empathy and Altruism": Ann Arbor City Club Dine & Discover. Talk by U-M psychology professor Stephanie Preston. Dinner. Preceded at 5 p.m. by a reception. *6 p.m., City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $33 (members, $28); preregistration required. 662–3279.*

★**Kerrytown Crafters.** *Every Wed.* All crocheters, knitters, spinners, weavers, felters, sewers, and other crafters invited to work on their own projects with others. Questions welcome. *7 p.m. or so, for URL join Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters. Free. 926–8863.*

★**Meditation and Discussion: Karma Thegsum Choling.** *Every Wed.* All invited for a silent group meditation with a focus on breathing, followed by a discussion on Dharma led by KTC resident Lama Nancy Burks. *7–8:30 p.m., KTC, 614 Miner St. (enter through the back door). Free. 678–7549, AnnArborKTC.org.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** The chance to see club trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7–9 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. Masks required. info@aamrc.org.*

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word over Zoom": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore.** Readings by 2 poets. Maryland-based **Judith McCombs,** whose work ranges through childhood memories, war, love, and nature in a voice that is steady and clear, lyrical and grieving, but not polemical, and U-M Ford School writing instructor **Molly Spencer,** whose 2019 debut poetry collection, *If the House,* has been praised for seamlessly connecting the everyday with the metaphoric. Followed by a poetry and short fiction **open mic.** *7–8:45 p.m. (sign-up for new participants begins at 6:45 p.m.), for URL email cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com. Free. cwcircle.poetry.blog.*

★**"The Great Stork Derby": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** Local writer **Ann S. Epstein** joins Danielle LaVaque-Manty of *Fiction Writers Review* to discuss (via Zoom) her latest novel, based on true events, about a man who in Depression-era Canada pressures his wife to have as many children as possible as part of a nationwide fertility contest. Fifty years later, widowed, infirm, and estranged from his many children, he embarks on a journey to visit each one and make amends. *7 p.m., for URL see literatibookstore.com/event/2021–12. Free. 585–5567.*

2 THURSDAY

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Thurs., Fri., & Tues.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. Partners required on Fridays only. If you plan to come without a partner on Tues. or Thurs., email ronmeade@comcast.net beforehand. Refreshments available. *1–4 p.m. or so (arrive by 12:50 p.m.), City Club, 1830 Washtenaw Ave. $6 per person. Masks required. ronmeade@comcast.net.*

★**34th Annual Jewish Book Festival: Jewish Community Center.** *Nov. 21–Dec. 16.* This annual festival features livestream talks by 24 Jewish authors on their books, ranging from cookbooks, expensive gift books, children's books, and reference books to books by local authors and new titles hot off the presses. (Publishers plan their releases for November, which is Jewish Book Month.) *Today:* Philadelphia fiction writer Pam Jenoff on ***The Woman with the Blue Star*** (1 p.m.), her new historical novel about an unlikely friendship between 2 young Polish women of similar ages during WWII, one Jewish, the other not. *Various times, online at book.jccannarbor.org. Free. 971–0990.*

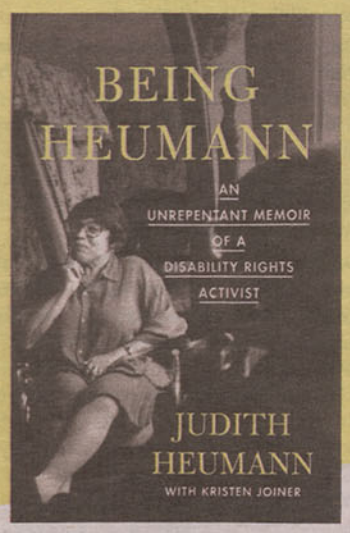
★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Thurs. & Sun.* Players of all skill levels invited to play this challenging strategy board game. Game materials provided. *5:30–end time TBA, for location email Drew at dwright8182@hotmail.com. Free.*

★**"Repairsday Thursday": All Hands Active.** *Every Thurs.* All invited to drop in with broken electronics, furniture, toys, and any other odd item for AHA members to try to repair and offer advice. Repairs not guaranteed. Livestream available at MeetUp.com/AllHandsActive/events. *6–8 p.m., All Hands Active, basement of 255 E. Liberty, ste. 225. Free; donations welcome. info@AllHandsActive.org.*

★**Annual Show-and-Tell & Holiday Party: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** All invited to bring rocks, minerals, or jewelry to show off. Refreshments. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. 7th St. Free. Masks required. 665–5574.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Thurs.* Local high school English teacher Barry Aherne throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly outdoor trivia fest. Come with a team (up to 6 people). Prizes. *7 p.m. or so, Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee that goes to the winning team. 665–2968.*

★**Thursday Lecture Series: U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** *Dec. 2 & 9.* Talks (via Zoom) by global scholars. *Dec. 2:* Temple University Japan former president Kirk R. Patterson on **"Japan as a Marine Tourism Mecca."** *Dec. 9:* Sophia University (Japan) Japanese history professor Bettina Gramlich-Oka on **"Creation of and Participation in Networks: Visiting the Japan Biographical Database"** about the gendered history of Japanese demographic research. *7 p.m., for URL preregister at events.umich.edu/group/1003. Free. umcjs@umich.edu, 764–6307.*



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★**"Atlas of the Invisible: Maps and Graphics That Will Change How You See the World.": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** Former *National Geographic* design editor **Oliver Uberti** discusses (via Zoom) his new book, an award-winning work of data-driven cartography, co-written with James Cheshire, that illustrates everything from undersea cables and cell towers to human migration and changing climate. *7 p.m., for URL see literatibookstore.com/event/2021–12. Free. 585–5567.*

★**Comhaltas.** *Every Thurs.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. *7–9:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. Mask and vaccination required. facebook.com/DetroitIMA.*

Yoga with Cats: Tiny Lions Lounge and Adoption Center. *Every Thurs. & Sun.* Humane Society of Huron Valley humane education reps introduce all ages to the basics of hatha-style yoga, which integrates breath with movement. Also, interact with adoptable cats. Dress prepared to work out. Suitable for age 12 & up (all 16 & under must be accompanied by adult). *7:30–8:30 p.m. (Thurs.) & 8:30–9:30 a.m. (Sun.), Tiny Lions, 5245 Jackson, ste. A1. $10. 661–3575.*

★**Percussion and Jazz Ensemble Concert: EMU Music Department.** Double bill of music student ensembles. The Jazz Ensemble performs a program of standards, including Simons & Marks's "All of Me," Duke Ellington's "Main Stem," Count Basie's "One O'Clock Jump," and more. The Percussion Ensemble performs Nebojsa Zivkovic's "Trio per Uno," Steven Snowden's "A Man With a Gun Lives Here," Phillip Richardson's "Transmigration," and Ney Rosauro's "Brazilian Myths." *7:30–9:30 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl., Ypsilanti. Free. Masks required. 487–6842.*

"Junk: The Golden Age of Debt": U-M Theatre Department. *Dec 2–5.* Geoff Packard directs theater students in Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Ayad Akhtar's fast-paced 2016 Shakespeareanstyle history play, set in 1985, about a high-flying financier who sets out to take over a distressed steel conglomerate. With double-dealing lawyers and corporate backstabbers standing in for earls and barons jockeying for a throne, the play exposes the moral bankruptcy of a culture that prizes the power of money above all else. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Power Center. Tickets $28–$34 (students, $13) in advance at tickets.smtd.umich.edu/5221 and at the door. Masks required. 764–2538.*

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": U-M Musical Theatre Department. *Dec. 2–5.* Vincent J. Cardinal directs U-M musical theater students in Shakespeare's delightful comic fantasy, set in an enchanted forest, about a jealous tiff between the king and queen of the fairies, and the mortals snared in their mischief. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Arthur Miller Theater, 1226 Murfin. Tickets $24 (students, $13) in advance at tickets.smtd.umich.edu/5233 and at the door. Masks required. 764–2538.*

Comedy Jamm: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 2 & 9.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *7:30 p.m., Comedy Showcase, 212 S. Fourth Ave. $5 in advance at aaComedy.com (recommended) and at the door. 996–9080.*

★**"Maker Show and Tell: End-of-Year Spectacular": All Hands Active.** All invited to discuss via Zoom, in 5 minutes or so, an electronic or other hands-on project that you've made, modified, or hacked in some way, or what you'd like to be working on or what you want help with. Listeners welcome. *8–10 p.m., for URL see MeetUp.com/AllHandsActive/events. Free, but donations appreciated. info@AllHandsActive.org.*

★**Poetry Salon: One Pause Poetry.** *Every Thurs.* Members and interested nonmembers read and discuss poems on various themes. Followed by collaborative writing games and exercises. Snacks

seniors

Ann Arbor Senior Center. Free (except as noted) weekly activities. In-person events take place at the Senior Center (1320 Baldwin Ave.; masks required). For more information, including URLs for virtual events, email bpatton@a2gov.org or call 794–6250. **Bridge** (Mon. 12:30–3:30 p.m.). Non-sanctioned duplicate bridge. Bring a partner, or get paired up when you arrive. Beginners welcome. $3 (members, $2). **Mah-Jongg** (Mon. noon–3 p.m.). All invited to play this intricate game resembling gin rummy and poker that's played with colorful tiles instead of cards. $2 (members, free). **Scrabble** (Wed. 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.) $2 (members, free). **"Mind Matters"** (Wed. 10–11 a.m). AASC rec supervisor Brittany Ruthven leads various mental exercises (via Zoom) from Nancy Linde's 2012 book *399 Games, Puzzles & Trivia Challenges Specifically Designed to Keep Your Brain Young.* **"Artists' Open Studio"** (every Fri. noon–2 p.m.). All invited to bring your own craft projects and work on them with others. Or, work from the materials provided. Call to reserve space. $5 (members, $2). **"Trivia!"** (Dec. 1 & 15, 1–2 p.m.). All invited to form teams of 4 or 5 persons to compete (via Zoom) in a 2-round trivia contest. Solo competitors are matched up together. Questions are geared toward ages 55 & up, but all ages welcome. Prizes (curbside pickup only).

OLLI Commons: U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Ongoing social and discussion groups (via Zoom), free for members ($25 annual membership fee). For more information and to register, see olli-umich.org or call 998–9351. **"The Schmoozery: At Our Age, In This Age"** (Wed. 1–2 p.m. except Dec. 29). Group conversation about aging, generations, and related topics, facilitated by local playwright and oral historian Hank Greenspan, a retired U-M psychology professor. **"First Friday Happy Hour"** (Dec. 3, 4:30–5:30 p.m.). Monthly gathering with guest hosts TBA. **"Coffee with Marta"** (Dec. 7 & 21, 9–10 a.m.). Biweekly social hour with local retired psychologist Marta Skiba. **"Poetry Reading with Ginny Bentz"** (Dec. 17, 7 p.m.). Poetry sharing session hosted by this local editor. **"Book Beat"** (Dec. 28, 4–5 p.m.). All invited to discuss what's new in the world of books.

U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program. Free weekly activities. In-person, unless otherwise noted. 2401 Plymouth Rd. For more information and URL, email info.tswp@umich.edu or call 998–9353. **Tai Chi.** (Mon., Wed., & Fri. noon–12:30 p.m.). Beginners welcome. Online and in-person. **"Walking Off the Pounds"** (Mon., Wed., & Fri. 12:30–1 p.m.). Guided steps to walk in place. **"Ongoing Meditation, Teachings, and Practice"** (Tues. 10–11:30 a.m.). Online only. **"Wise Guys: Conversations for Men"** (Thurs. 1–2:30 p.m.). **"Una Tertulia"** (Dec. 7 & 21, 3–4 p.m.). Socializing group for Spanish speakers. **Chinese Mah Jongg** (Thurs. 10 a.m.–noon.). **Bridge** (Tues. & Fri. 1–4 p.m.), **Chess** (Wed. 1–4 p.m.), and **Scrabble** (time TBA) available if there is sufficient interest; call ahead.

Dec. 9 (noon): **"Music without Musicians: A Visit to the Music House Museum": First Presbyterian Church Mature Ministries.** A Music House Museum (Williamsburg) rep gives a slide-illustrated presentation (via Zoom) about its collection of antique automated instruments. *For URL see fumc-a2.org. Free. 662–4466.*

Dec. 15 (10 a.m.–noon): **"Senior Naturalist: Solstice Celebration": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** All age 55 & up invited to join WCPARC naturalist Elle Bogle on a brief walk, followed by a bonfire and a chance to share favorite nature moments. Holiday-themed treats and hot drinks. *Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings Rd. (north off North Territorial), Whitmore Lake. Free. Space limited; preregister by emailing boglee@washtenaw.org.*

& socializing. *8–10 p.m., Argus Farm Stop greenhouse, 325 W. Liberty. $5 suggested donation. OnePausePoetry.org, wandersong@gmail.com.*

★**"There's Corn in Our Hair? Adventures with Food": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series.** Rebroadcast of a lecture by Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis, directors of the Peabody Award–winning documentary *King Corn* and cofounders of FoodCorps, a national team of Americorps leaders who help kids get healthy food. *8 p.m., for URL see bit.ly/stampsfall2021. Free.*

★**"also known as": U-M Dance Department BFA Concert.** *Dec. 2–4.* New solo and group works choreographed by U-M dance seniors **Alexa Guidotti, Kristin Hanson,** and **Alexa Miller.** *8 p.m., U-M Dance Building, 1000 Baits Dr. (adjacent to the Moore Music Building). Tickets $10 (cash or check only) at the door.*

"H.M.S. Pinafore": U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society. *Dec. 2–5.* This town-and-gown company performs one of Gilbert and Sullivan's best-known comic operettas, also known as "The Lass Who Loved a Sailor." Aboard the Pinafore, the captain's daughter moons for a poor but honest sailor. Her father won't abide a marriage with a common deckhand, but in time, through a series of absurd plot twists that tweak class barriers, the two lovers predictably find bliss. The score contains many of Sullivan's most memorable works, among them "We Sail the Ocean Blue" and "I'm Called Little Buttercup." Stars Catherine Moss, Lee Vahlsing, Richard Harper, Mario Melone, Drake Meadow, Leslie Naeve, and Caitlin Glimco. *8 p.m. (Thurs. & Fri.) & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets $20 (seniors age 65 & over, $18; students with ID, $10) in advance at mutotix.umich.edu and at the door. Masks required. umgass@umich.edu.*

3 FRIDAY

★**Annual Holiday Sale: Kiwanis Center.** *Every Fri. & Sat. through Dec. 18.* Sale of used seasonal gifts and decorations, sporting goods, kitchen items, collectables, books, jewelry, office supplies, furniture, and more. *9 a.m.–1 p.m., Kiwanis Center West, 102 N. Staebler. Free admission. 368–9738.*

U-M Natural History Museum Planetarium. *Every Fri.-Sun., Dec. 3–12.* Three different audiovisual planetarium shows. ***Expedition Reef*** (11:30 a.m.) explores the life cycle of coral reefs and what scientists are doing to keep coral bleaching events at bay. ***Sky Tonight*** (12:30 & 2:30 p.m.) shows off the current night sky. ***Sea Monsters*** (1:30 p.m.) follows an animated late Cretaceous water creature through the great inland sea that divided North America. For holiday hours, see ummnh.org. *11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., every hour on the hour, U-M Natural History Museum, 1105 North University. $8. Masks required. 764–0478.*

★**35th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** *Dec. 3–5, 9, 10, 12, 15, 17, 22, & 24.* Family activities, including Santa visits and crafts. Merchant sales with entertainment and refreshments at many stores. For complete schedule, see chelseamich.com/hometown-holiday. *Dec. 3:* **Tree lighting ceremony** (4–6:30 p.m., Pierce Park), and a **Live Nativity Scene** (6:30–7:30 p.m., Palmer Commons). *Dec. 4:* **Holiday Homemade Gift workshop** for teens & tweens (time TBA, Chelsea District Library), a **parade** through downtown Chelsea (6–6:30 p.m.) featuring dozens of lighted floats and vehicles, marching bands, Santa, and more, and drop-in to a **holiday pet photo booth** (12:30–4 p.m., Lane Animal Hospital, 701 N. Main). *Dec. 5:* Waterloo Farm Museum's **"Christmas on the Farm"** (see 4 Saturday listing), the chance to visit with Santa at **"Donuts & Selfies with Santa"** (10 a.m.–noon, Smokehouse 52 BBQ, 125 S. Main), and **Hometown Holiday Concert** (3 & 7 p.m., First Methodist Church, 128 Park St.) by the **Chelsea Chamber Players** and members of the Chelsea High School orchestra. The program includes works by Emilie Mayer, Florence Prince, and Christmas selections. *Dec. 9:* Reading by local writer **Jan Brett** (time TBA, Chelsea District Library) and an outdoor performance by the **Arbor Consort Carolers** (4–5 p.m., Chelsea District Library lawn) while dressed in Victorian holiday costumes. *Dec. 10:* A **raffle** (5–6 p.m., Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce, 222 S. Main) with a portion of the proceeds going to Chelsea High School graduates. *Dec. 17:* The chance to visit with **Santa & Mrs. Claus,** as well as Chelsea fire & police department staffers (6–9 p.m., Ugly Dog Distillery, 218 S. Main). Hot cocoa available for kids. *Dec. 19:* Pick up **gingerbread-making kits** (noon–2 p.m., Chelsea Palmer Commons, 304 S. Main) to assemble and decorate at home. *Dec. 22:* **"Holiday Spirit"** program TBA (time TBA, Chelsea District Library). *Dec. 24:* Livestream storytime with Santa (1:30–2 p.m., for URL see chelseamich.com/events/hth-virtual-storytime). *Various times and locations, Chelsea. Free. 475–1145.*

"Mini Art Fair & Bazaar": Dreamland Theater. *Dec. 3, 11, & 18.* With works in various media by local artists. *4–9 p.m. (Fri.) & 1–6 p.m. (Sat.), Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. Donation optional. Masks required. info@DreamlandTheater.com.*

★**"Midnight Madness Holiday Kickoff Party": Bløm Meadworks.** Featuring contemporary classical music TBA presented by the local **Third Place Concert Series.** Also, sweet treats by Ellen's Fine Goods for sale and Bløm partners with Cahoots Cafe and Gutman Gallery to host a **"Makers Market"** with handmade gifts. *4–9 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free admission. Facebook.com/DrinkBlom.*

Takács Quartet: University Musical Society. Founded in Hungary in 1975, this world-renowned, Boulder-based ensemble—and UMS crowd favorite—is known for its warmth, eloquence, and discipline, and for the ease with which it masters demanding pieces. Violinists Edward Dusinberre and Harumi Rhodes, violist Geraldine Walther, and cellist András Fejér are "four of the best string alchemists on the planet," writes a *Chicago Tribune* reviewer. Tonight they're joined by French accordion and bandoneon virtuoso **Julien Labro** in the world premiere of Bryce Dessner's "Circles" and Brazilian-American composer Clarice Assad's "Clash," both commissioned by UMS. Also, Labro's arrangement of Bach's cantata "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme," Dino Saluzzi's "Minguito," Maurice Ravel's String Quartet in F Major, and a couple of solo pieces by Labro. *4 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $30–$60 in advance at ums.org, the Michigan League, & by phone, and (if available) at the door. Mask and proof of vaccination (or a negative Covid PCR test within 72 hours of performance time) required. 764–2538.*

★**"(Indian) Animals Are Good to Think With": U-M Center for South Asian Studies Thomas R. Trautmann Honorary Lecture.** UCLA Asian languages and cultures professor Stephanie Jamison discusses (via Zoom) the role of animal characters in ancient and medieval Indian literature. *4:30–6 p.m., for URL preregister at events.umich.edu/event/85618. Free. csas@umich.edu.*

"Cozy Cocoa Mugs": Ann Arbor Art Center Midnight Madness Workshop. All ages (5–7 p.m.) and age 18 & up (7:30–9:30 p.m.) invited to use colorful underglazes to paint a set of 2 mugs to take home. *5 & 7:30 p.m., A2AC, 117 W. Liberty. $45, preregistration required at MainStreetAnnArbor.org/midnight-madness. Masks required. 994–8004.*

★**"Midnight Madness": Main Street Area Association.** With appearances by Santa, and sidewalk entertainment by the breakdancing group Element 1, Pioneer Choir, Voices in Harmony, Huron Valley Harmonizers, and more. Also, **Santa's Mailbox** is accepting letters (postage to North Pole courtesy of the MSAA), Nov. 29–Dec. 14, in front of Conor O'Neill's (318 S. Main); include a return address to receive a response from Santa. *All evening (many stores stay open till midnight), Main Street shopping areas. (Many stores in other downtown shopping areas, including State St. area and Kerrytown Market & Shops, are also open tonight.) Free admission. 668–7112.*

★**"Christmas at the Mansion": Dexter Area Historical Society.** *Dec. 3 & 4.* Two days of seasonal happenings on the lavishly decorated grounds of Gordon Hall, the 19th-century mansion, built by Dexter founder Judge Samuel Dexter. **Santa** is on hand to talk with kids. Also, on Fri. only, a tree lighting ceremony. *6–8 p.m. (Fri.) & 1–4 p.m. (Sat.), Gordon Hall, 8347 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. Free admission, but donations matched. 426–2519.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Minnesota. *Dec. 3 & 4.* This month's schedule also includes home games vs. **Ohio State** (Dec. 10, 7 p.m. & Dec. 11, 8 p.m.), **Michigan Tech** (Dec. 29, 7 p.m.), and **WMU** (Dec. 30, 7 p.m.). *6:30 p.m. (Fri.) & 7 p.m. (Sat.), Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State. Tickets $10 and up. Masks required. mtickets@umich.edu, 764–0247.*

★**First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** All invited to a brief livestreamed Shabbat observance with secular readings, candle lighting, wine rituals, challah, and Yahrzeit observance to remember loved ones. *6:30–7:30 p.m., for URL preregister at JewishCulturalSociety.org/shabbat. Free, but donations accepted. 975–9872.*

"First Fridays: Open Hours for Adults": The Creature Conservancy. Presentation (7:30 p.m.) for age 18 & up on some animals native to Eurasia, including Sven the reindeer, Mike the English Shire horse, and Mango the Burmese python. Also, the

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H.M.S. Pinafore

The Lass That Loved a Sailor

Directed by Elizabeth Mitchell Music Direction by Jordan McKay

December 2 - 5, 2021

Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

For tickets: mutotix.umich.edu

info at umgass.org

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Midnight Madness
December 3
noon-10pm

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library
Commemorating the 80th Anniversary: Pearl Harbor

Ian Toll
Virtual Author Talk
Tuesday, December 7
7 PM
Join the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, Museum, Foundation and GVSU's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies in welcoming writer and World War II historian Ian Toll to delve into the fateful day. Toll authored *Pacific Crucible*, *The Conquering Tide*, and *Twilight of the Gods*, a nonfiction trilogy about the Pacific War.
Sign up:
www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov
Gerald R. Ford
Presidential Library
Virtual Event
734.205.0540

★ *Denotes a free event*

chance to see the conservancy's other animals, including porcupines, muntjacs, macaws, and more. *7–8:30 p.m., Creature Conservancy, 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10 in advance at TheCreatureConservancy.org & $11 at the door. Masks required. 929–9324.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** U-M creative writing grad students **Caroline Harper** (poetry) and **Julie Cadman-Kim** (fiction) read their work. Livestream available at tinyurl.com/WebsterSeries. *7 p.m., UMMA Stern Auditorium. Free. Masks required. lmmorrow@umich.edu, 764–6330.*

"Frozen": Saline Varsity Blues. *Dec. 3 & 4.* Singers ages 7–18 perform a stage musical performance of the popular animated Disney adventure fantasy loosely adapted from Hans Christian Andersen's *The Snow Queen. 7 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. Tickets $15 in advance online at SalineVarsityBlues.org and at the door. SalineVarsityBlues@gmail.com.*

"A Year With Frog and Toad": EMU Theatre Department. *Dec. 3–5, 11, & 12.* EMU theater lecturer Jennifer Felts directs EMU students in Willie and Robert Reale's bubbly Tony Award-winning musical adaptation of Arnold Lobel's warmly comic stories about these animal friends who stick together through thick and thin. The musical follows them as they awake in the spring from a long sleep to plant gardens, swim their way through summer, rake leaves in the fall, and go sledding as the weather turns colder. Along the way, they encounter a variety of colorful characters as they learn about life and friendship. Aimed at theatergoers age 5 & older. On Dec. 5 only, a **"sensory friendly"** performance for audience members with autism or other sensory sensitivities. *7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), EMU Sponberg Theatre, Ford St. (off Lowell at Jarvis), Ypsilanti. Tickets $18 (seniors age 60 & over, $12; students, $12; kids ages 6–12, $7) in advance at EMUtix.com, by phone (487–2282), and at the door. Masks required. 487–1220, emich.edu/EMUtheatre.*

★**"The Normal Heart": U-M Basement Arts.** *Dec. 3 & 4.* Mark Mitrano directs this student theater ensemble in a production of Larry Kramer's largely autobiographical 1985 play on the rise of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in NYC in the early 1980s, seen through the eyes of a prominent gay activist. *7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 11 p.m. (Fri. only), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio 1, 1226 Murfin. Free. Masks required. facebook.com/basementarts.*

44th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. *Dec. 3–5.* Elegantly elaborate medieval English pageant celebrating Christ's birth with a blend of religious pageantry and secular pomp. Maggie Rhodes directs a large cast of Concordia students, faculty, and staff as Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and Magi. With musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 4 p.m. (Sun.), Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $10–$16 in advance at the Kreft Center Box Office and online at cuaa.edu/KreftArts-Tickets. 995–7537.*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. *Every Fri.–Sun., except Dec. 25 & 31, Dec. 3–Jan. 2, and Dec. 22 & 23.* Carla Milarch directs the premiere of her and R. MacKenzie Lewis's seasonal Panto comedy, a British pantomime that blends children's stories with a bit of vaudeville sensibility to create a raucous family entertainment. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat. and Dec. 22 & 23), 3 p.m. (Sat. only), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron St. Tickets $25 (kids age 16 & under, $10). Masks & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 48 hours). 635–8450.*

Zach Martina: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 3 & 4.* Local comic known for his fast-talking, enthusiastic style and for his love of the Detroit Lions, his 2 daughters, and more. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) and 9:30 p.m. (Sat. only), 212 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15 reserved seating in advance, $17 general admission at the door (capacity reduced). 996–9080, aaComedy.com.*

★**Contemporary Directions Ensemble: U-M Music School.** Adrian Slywotzky directs this U-M music school ensemble in a program featuring Brazilian-born composer Marcos Balter's meditative minimalist 2013 sextet *Bladed Stance* and Aaron Jay Kernis's cacophonous 17-part 2011 chamber work *Invisible Mosaic II*. Also, Andile Khumalo's *Cry Out* and Alvin Singleton's *In Our Own House. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Hankinson Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. Masks required. 615–3204.*

"We Gather, We Sing, We Celebrate": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Benjamin Cohen directs this 24-voice local chamber choir in a program of intimate choral music, including works by Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn, Monteverdi, Tallis, Buxtehude, Sweelinck, Argento, and Cutter. *8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 808 William. Pay-what-you-can at the door only. Masks & proof of vaccination required. VocalArtsAnnArbor@gmail.com.*

Roe, Bickley, Kramer Trio: Kerrytown Concert House. Mainstream jazz by the local trio of bassist Rob Bickley, drummer Jesse Kramer, and keyboardist Rick Roe. Tonight's program, **"Falling Colors,"** features classic songs associated with the season by Vernon Duke, Vince Guaraldi, Thelonious Monk and other composers, as well as Roe originals inspired by autumn. Livestream available at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $13–$50 in advance online and at the door. Mask & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. 769–2999.*

Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, Massachusetts writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. A Green Wood favorite, his fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.), FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $20 in advance at GreenWoodCoffeeHouse.org or phone 665–8558 (leave a message with your name, performance date, & # of tickets), and at the door.*

"The Winter Wolf": The Penny Seats Theatre. *Every Thurs.–Sat., Dec. 3–18.* Julia Glander directs veteran local playwright Joseph Zettelmaier's fantasy about a young girl who, in an effort to save her beloved grandfather, traps the Winter Wolf, a legendary creature that serves Time by hunting people in their old age. Cast: Amanda Buchalter, Julia Garlotte, Allyson Miko, Jeremy Salvatori, and Robert Schorr. Suitable for ages 10 & up. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Stone Chalet Inn, 1917 Washtenaw Ave. Tickets $15 (seniors, $12; kids age 12 & under, $10), in advance at PennySeats.org and (if available) at the door. Mask & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. 926–5346.*

★**"also known as": U-M Dance Department BFA Concert.** See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"H.M.S. Pinafore": U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Much Ado About Nothing": U-M Residential College Players. *Dec. 3 & 4.* RC junior Will McClelland directs fellow students in Shakespeare's high-spirited, sharp-tongued comedy, set in a modern-day office, about 2 pairs of young lovers. One couple, both disdainful of love, are tricked into acknowledging each other, while the other couple's love is nearly ruined by a deception that, abetted by the paranoia of returning military heroes, leads to trumped-up charges of infidelity. The play is best known for its charged sexual banter and for the penetrating wit and often dark cast of its humor. *8 p.m., East Quad Keene Theater, 701 E. University. Pay-as-you-can at the door. Masks required. mccle@umich.edu.*

"Junk: The Golden Age of Debt": U-M Theatre Department. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": U-M Musical Theatre Department. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Social Dance: The Dance Pavilion. *Every Fri. & Tues.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music. No partner or experience necessary. Preceded from 8–8:30 p.m. by an optional lesson. Drinks & snacks. *8:30–10:30 p.m. (Fri.) & 8:30–9:30 p.m. (Tues.), 1918 Whittaker Rd., Ypsilanti. $15 (Fri.) & $12 (Tues.). TheDancePavilion.com, 369–9700.*

4 SATURDAY

★**"Ann Arbor Group Runs": Running Fit.** *Every Sat. & Mon.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a run of 3–5 miles along varying routes from different Running Fit locations. Also, a speed-training session every Tues. 6 p.m., at 5700 Jackson Rd. Rain or shine. *8 a.m. (Sat.), 5700 Jackson Rd. & 6:30 p.m. (Mon.), 123 E. Liberty. Free. 929–9022 (Sat.) & 769–5016 (Mon.).*

★**"Winter Birding": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Kelsey Dehring leads a walk in search of birds. *8–10 a.m., DeVine Preserve, 6110 W. Liberty. Free. Space limited; preregistration required by emailing dehringk@washtenaw.org.*

★**parkrun USA.** *Every Sat.* All invited to join a timed 5-km run/walk. *9 a.m., Lillie Park South, 4365 Platt Rd. Free, but first-timers are requested to preregister at parkrun.US/lillie. lillie@parkrun.com.*

★**Holiday Bazaar & Christmas Cookies: St. Joseph Catholic Church/Dexter Area Girl Scouts.** Market with cookies by the pound, Scout-made arts & crafts, and Girl Scouts nuts and candy. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., St. Joseph Parish Center, 3430 Dover, Dexter. Free admission. 426–8483.*

★**Winter Marketplace.** *Dec. 4 & 18.* Featuring arts & crafts, bread & baked goods, jewelry, fresh produce, and more. *9 a.m.–1 p.m., Dexter United Methodist Church, 7643 Huron River Dr., Dexter. Free admission. 834–3229, DexterWinterMarketplace@gmail.com.*

★**Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Heritage Guild.** Sale of handcrafted gifts, holiday decorations, winter apparel, scrubbies, baked treats for pets, and more. Raffle of a handmade fabric Santa figurine, and drawings of other seasonal gifts TBA. The Museum gift shop is open. Proceeds benefit the museum. Cash/check only. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Dexter Area Historical Museum, 3443 Inverness, Dexter. Free admission. 426–2519.*

★**"Christmas in the Village": Manchester Chamber of Commerce.** *Dec. 3 & 4.* Downtown Manchester bustles with holiday activities, including several craft shows and artisan markets, a luncheon with Santa, blacksmithing demonstrations, chili cookoff, games and a scavenger hunt for kids, cocktail crawl for adults, and more. Festivities kick off with a **parade** (Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m.) that brings Santa down Main St. to the mill where he lights the Christmas tree and greets children. *9 a.m.–8 p.m., downtown Manchester. Free admission. facebook.com/manchestermichristmas. 476–4565.*

"Christmas on the Farm": Waterloo Farm Museum. *Dec. 4 & 5.* This German immigrant pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas as costumed guides lead tours of the 2-story brick farmhouse, 1840s log house, and outbuildings (with a blacksmith at work at the forge). Also, lace and other fiber craft demonstrations, sales of holiday greens and baked goods, and a "Christmas Market" with handcrafted gifts. Reading of *The Night Before Christmas* on Sun. only at an afternoon time TBA. Carolers and live music. Concessions. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Waterloo Farm Museum, 13493 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. $5 admission (seniors, $4; kids ages 5–12, $2; age 4 & under & members, free). (517) 648–3676.*

★**9th Annual Holiday Sale: Huron Valley Woodturners.** *Dec. 4 & 5.* Nine local woodturners show and sell their bowls, pens, vases, lamps, candlesticks, ornaments, rolling pins, crochet sets, ice cream scoops, and more. Also, display of work by local watercolor painters and jewelers. Cider & cookies. Partial proceeds benefit the Webster Historical Society and the Virtual Dialysis Support Center. *10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.) & 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Crossroads Community Center, 5501 Webster Church Rd., Dexter. Free admission. eperry@umich.edu, 915–4915.*

★**Winter Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild.** *Dec. 4 & 5.* Popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Large selection of functional and decorative ceramics by local artists. Includes a kids' area with gifts priced for their budgets. *10 a.m.-5 p.m., Potters Guild Studio, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663–4970.*

★**Ann Arbor Holiday Art Fair.** *Dec. 4 & 5.* Display of paintings, ceramics, prints, functional art, books, speciality food and more by over 100 artists and writers. Also, art activities & food vendors. *10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Sat.) & 11 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free admission, but canned or boxed food donations accepted for $2 shopping credit. AnnArborFair.com.*

★**"How Ultrasound May Be Ultra Useful for You!": U-M Physics Department Saturday Morning Physics.** Livestream talk by U-M applied physics, biomedical engineering, and radiology professor Oliver Kripfgans. *10:30–11:30 a.m., for URL see SaturdayMorningPhysics.org. Free. 764–4437.*

"Pet Photos with Santa": Humane Society of Huron Valley. *Dec. 4 & 5.* All invited to bring pets to meet Santa. Bring cats in carriers and dogs on leashes. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., Huron Pet Supply, 5060 Jackson Rd. $10–$15 donation (includes a digital or printed photo). 747–7575.*

★**"Art on Adare": Local Ann Arbor Artists Open House and Sale.** Show and sale of works by 3 local artists: fine art jewelry by **Idelle Hammond-Sass,** carved porcelain pottery by **Patricia Cowan,** and **Carol Furtado,** a fiber artist who makes woven, felted, and dyed hats & scarves

and silk wearables. *11 a.m.-5 p.m., 1510 Kearney Rd. Free admission. Masks required. hammond.sass@gmail.com, 741–4441.*

★**Artisan Market: York Food & Drink.** *Dec. 4 & 5.* Show and sale of handcrafted goods by more than 30 local artisans, featuring jewelry, pottery, paintings, vintage clothing, specialty food items, and more. Music spun by DJs. *11 a.m.–8 p.m. (Sat.) & 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sun.), York Yard, 1928 Packard. Free admission. 662–0798.*

"Annual Croissant Concert": Kerrytown Concert House. A popular holiday tradition featuring **Today's Brass Quintet,** an ensemble of area professional musicians that performs pop, classical, and holiday tunes. With trumpeters Mitchell Wechsler and Jean Moorehead Libs, tuba player Joseph DeMarsh, trombonist Brian Robson, and French horn player Alan Taplin. Take-home croissants & coffee. Livestream available at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. *11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $13–$50 in advance online and at the door. Mask & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. 769–2999.*

★**Winter Market: StudioStudio.** Dec. 4 & 5. Show & sale of work in various media & styles. *11 a.m.–7 p.m. (Sat.) & 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sun.), StudioStudio, 1946 Packard. Free admission. studiostudioa2.com.*

★**"Scientist Spotlight": U-M Natural History Museum.** U-M research scientists in a range of fields from anthropology and psychology to chemistry and sustainability lead various activities based on their current work. For example, visitors might look at miniature versions of an archaeological site to draw conclusions about the people who lived there. For kids in upper elementary–adults. *Noon–3 p.m., Natural History Museum, 1105 North University. Free. Masks required. 764–0478.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. San Diego State. The U-M also has home games this month vs. **Minnesota** (Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m.), **Southern Utah** (Dec. 18, 7 p.m.), and **Purdue-Fort Wayne** (Dec. 21, 7 p.m.). *1 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets $20 at mgoblue.com/tickets. Masks required. 764–0247.*

"Creature Encounters": The Creature Conservancy. *Every Sat. & Sun.* Conservancy staffers show off some animals native to Eurasia (2 & 4 p.m.), including the Sven the **reindeer,** Mike the **English shire horse,** and Mango the **Burmese python.** Also, the chance to see the conservancy's other animals. *1–5 p.m., Creature Conservancy, 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10 (kids ages 2–12, $8; under age 2, free) in advance at TheCreatureConservancy.org; at the door, $11 (kids ages 2–12, $9; under age 2, free). Masks required. 929–9324.*

★**"Family Duck Walk": Washtenaw Audubon Society/Ypsilanti District Library.** WAS education chair Victor Chen leads all ages on a walk to look for migratory and resident waterfowl. Dress warmly and bring binoculars, if you have them. *2–3:30 p.m., Ford Lake Boardwalk Access, 526 S. Grove St., Ypsilanti. Free. Masks required. WashtenawAudubon.org/events.*

★**"Winter Wander": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Leisurely hike led by WCPARC naturalist Kelsey Dehring. *2–4 p.m., Scio Woods Preserve, 4000 Scio Church Rd. Free. Space limited; preregistration required by emailing dehringk@washtenaw.org.*

★**"Saturday Sampler": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** *Dec. 4 & 18.* Docent-led tours of the museum. *Dec. 4:* **"Tales of Survivors."** In-person look at how ancient objects survived to the present day. *Dec. 18:* Virtual tour of the museum's **"Egyptian Collection."** *2–3 p.m., Kelsey Museum (Dec. 4), 434 S. State, & for URL (Dec. 18) see lsa.umich.edu/kelsey. Free. Masks required. 764–9304.*

"H.M.S. Pinafore": U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society. See 2 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Friday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

★**"Home for the Holidays": Saline Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Christmas Parade.** The 46th annual parade features floats, bands, baton twirlers, dancers, animals, a hot air balloon, and Santa in his sleigh. Kids invited to meet with Santa after the parade. *5:30–7:30 p.m. or so, downtown Saline. Free shuttle available from Busch's shopping center, 565 E. Michigan Ave. Free. 429–4494.*

"An Experimental Evening of Improv": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Civic Improv. All invited to play short-form improv with other audience members. Followed by the "Experimental Show," which includes the chance to try out long-form improv with others. No experience necessary. *6–9:30 p.m., Civic Theatre, 322 W. Ann. Pay what you can. Proof of vaccination and masks required. CivicImprov@gmail.com, CivicImprov.org.*

★**Art Auction: U-M Prison Creative Arts Project.** Live auction of artwork by incarcerated artists, PCAP curators, U-M faculty members, and other Michigan artists. The program begins with a cocktail reception. Also, a virtual **silent auction** starting Dec. 2 at 7 p.m., online at pcapauction2021.ggo.bid. *6:30 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Rm. Free admission. 647–6771.*

Murder Mystery Dinner Show: The Dinner Detective Ann Arbor. *Dec. 4, 11, & 18* Dinner while actors masquerading as fellow diners enact a hilarious murder mystery in which actual audience members may find themselves a prime suspect. *6:30–9 p.m., Ann Arbor Marriott, 1275 S. Huron, Ypsilanti. $65 includes gratuity; preregistration required at TheDinnerDetective.com. (866) 496–0535.*

"Meals on Heels: A Roaring Holiday Event": Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels Fundraiser. Livestream program features music by the Burlington (VT) funk-rock band **Funkwagon,** cocktail demos by the Bar at 327 Braun Court staff, prizes for best 1920s outfit and best shoes, a silent auction, and more. Appetizers for 2 from Simply Scrumptious delivered to the homes of ticketholders. Proceeds help provide hot meals for medically homebound Ypsilanti residents. *7–8:30 p.m., for tickets ($125 & $150) and URL preregister at a2tix.com. giving@ymow.org, 487–9669.*

★**For Good Measure: First Presbyterian Church.** This local a cappella group performs music TBA. *7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 1432 Washtenaw Ave. Free. Masks & vaccines required. 662–4466.*

44th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 3 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"The Normal Heart": U-M Basement Arts.** See 3 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Frozen": Saline Varsity Blues. See 3 Friday. 7 p.m.

"A Year With Frog and Toad": EMU Theatre Department. See 3 Friday. 7 p.m.

"143rd Annual Handel's Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). *Dec. 4 & 5.* Scott Hanoian directs the 175-voice Choral Union and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano **Joélle Harvey,** mezzo-soprano **Meg Bragle,** tenor **Nicholas Phan,** and bass-baritone **Dashon Burton.** With harpsichordist **Joseph Gascho.** The Choral Union's *Messiah,* featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah Chorus," has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. *7:30 p.m. (Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Hill Auditorium. Tickets $17–$43 (students, $12–$20) in advance at tickets.ums.org, at Michigan League, by phone, and (if available) at the door. Mask and proof of vaccination (or a negative Covid PCR test within 72 hours of performance time) required. 764–2538.*

★**"also known as": U-M Dance Department BFA Concert.** See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Winter Wolf": The Penny Seats Theatre. See 3 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Much Ado About Nothing": U-M Residential College Players. See 3 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Junk: The Golden Age of Debt": U-M Theatre Department. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": U-M Musical Theatre Department. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Zach Martina: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Friday. 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.

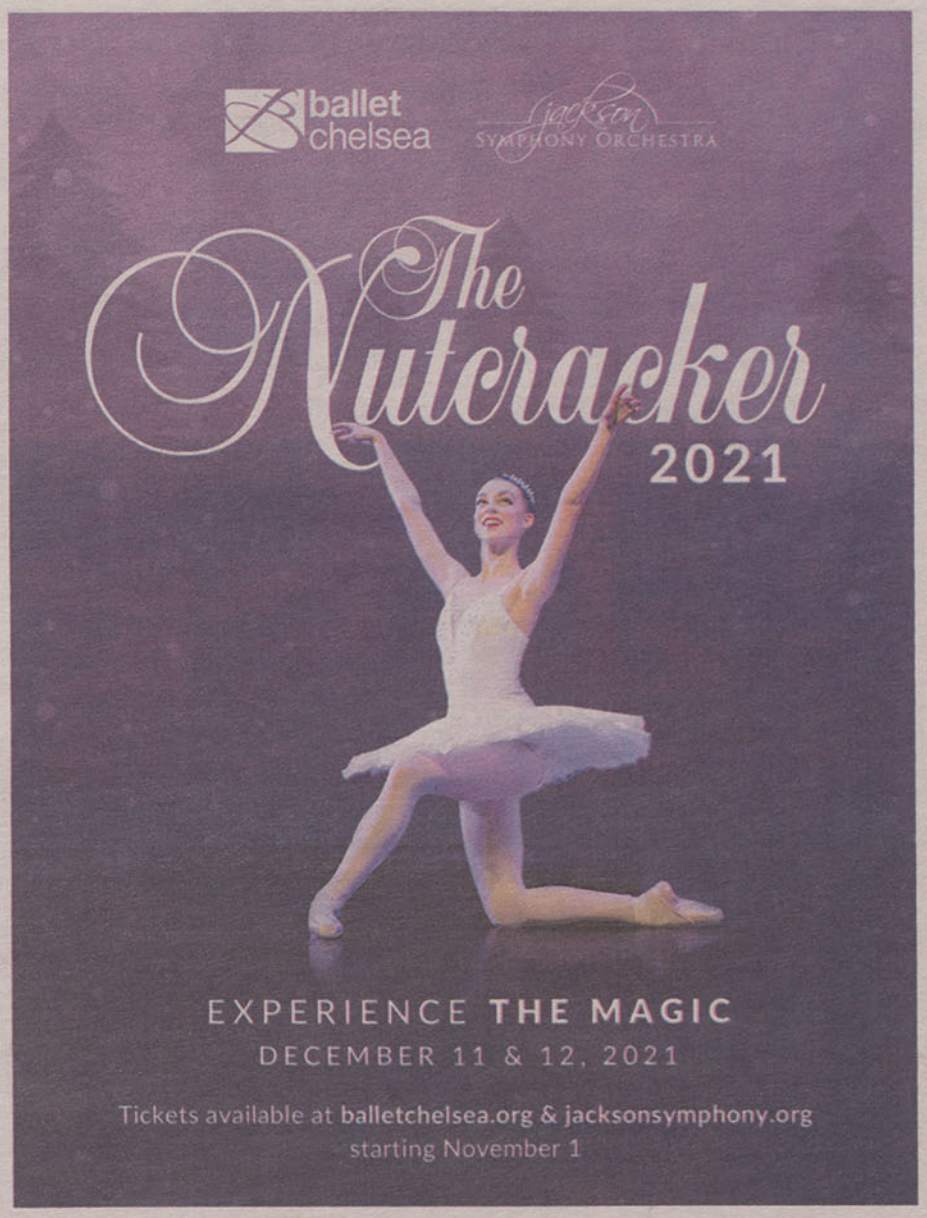
5 SUNDAY

"Christmas on the Farm": Waterloo Farm Museum. See 4 Saturday. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

★**Sunday Artisan Market.** *Every Sun.* Juried market of local handmade arts and crafts, now in its 30th year. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Farmers Market Pavilion, Kerrytown. Free admission. 913–9622.*

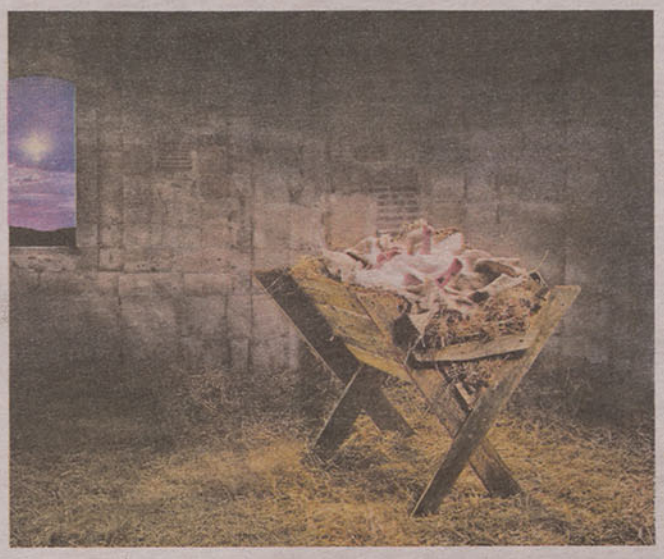
★**"Ancient Wisdom. Modern Times": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center Sunday Talks.** *Every Sun.* Livestream talk by Jewel Heart resident spiritual advisor Demo Rinpoche, followed by a discussion facilitated by Jewel Heart staffers. *11 a.m., for URL preregister at bit.ly/jeweldharmatalk. Free. 994–3387.*

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sun.* All invited to join a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot (or oc-*



St. Paul School Ann Arbor

wishes you and your family a Christmas of faith and hope.



The Hope of Christmas

"Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people." Luke 2:10

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"Historic Earhart Manor Tour": Concordia University Ann Arbor Guild. Docent-led tour of this 1935 English-style country manor, currently home to Concordia administration, built by local gasoline baron Harry Earhart. It features secret panels and hidden passageways linking rooms and floors, a room once used solely for arranging flowers, and rooms so spacious that a former closet is now a top Concordia administrator's office. *1 p.m., Concordia University Earhart Manor, 4090 Geddes Rd. $10; preregistration required. Masks required. ConcordiaGuild@cuaa.edu, 995–7509.*

★**"Digital News: Genealogical Research in Online Papers": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Livestream talk by Archives of Michigan (Lansing) archivist Kris Rzepczynski. Then, at 3:15 p.m. Rzepczynski discusses **"Perilous Assumptions: Revisiting Those First Finds."** *1:30 p.m., for URL email info@WashtenawGenealogy.org by Dec. 2. Free.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Akron. The U-M also has home games this month vs. **Minnesota** (Dec. 12, 2 p.m.), **EMU** (Dec. 22, 1 p.m.), and **Ohio State** (Dec. 31, noon). *2 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets $6 & $8 at mgoblue.com/tickets. Masks required. 764–0247.*

★**"Game Playtesting": Michigame Design Lab (Bløm Meadworks).** All invited to try out new games from local board and card game designers and provide feedback. *2–6 p.m., Bløm Meadworks, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free; proof of vaccination required. 548–9729.*

"143rd Annual Handel's Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). See 4 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"A Year With Frog and Toad": EMU Theatre Department. See 3 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Winter Wolf": The Penny Seats Theatre. See 3 Friday. 2 p.m.

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Friday. 2 p.m.

"H.M.S. Pinafore": U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Junk: The Golden Age of Debt": U-M Theatre Department. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": U-M Musical Theatre Department. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band Concert: EMU Music Department.** Mary Schneider directs these music student ensembles in a varied program that includes Chen Yi's *Spring Festival,* Omar Thomas's setting of "Shenandoah," David Maslanka's "Give Us This Day," Bernstein's *Suite from West Side Story,* and more. *3–4:30 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl., Ypsilanti. Free. Masks required. 487–4143.*

★**Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Band.** Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program of holiday music featuring the New Irish Choir's "A Christmas Carol Fantasy," Morrissey's "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," the Overture to *Miracle on 34th Street,* the medley *An Irving Berlin Christmas,* and more. The local vocal quartet of Fiona Linn, Kristin Hoffman-Peavler, Jake McClory and Austin Chrzanowski joins the band in *Christmas on Broadway,* a medley of holiday tunes featured in Broadway musicals, and renditions of "On With the Snow" and "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire." Also, a sing-along of traditional Christmas songs. *3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. Masks required. 426–2734.*

"A New World Holiday": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra in Dvorak's Symphony no. 9 ("From the New World"), along with Leroy Anderson's "A Christmas Festival," tunes from *The Polar Express,* and other holiday favorites. Also, Leslie Schwegler directs the **Lincoln High School band** in a program TBA, and LHS choir director Toni Micik narrates *'Twas the Night Before Christmas. 3:30–4:30 p.m., Lincoln High School Performing Arts Center, 7425 Willis Rd., Ypsilanti. Tickets $12 (students, seniors, & children 12 and under, $6; families, $30) in advance (recommended) at a2tix.org and at the door. For Covid precautions, see llincolnk12.org. info@ypsilantisymphony.org.*

34th Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. The AAYC descant and concert choirs of talented young local singers ages 9–16 perform a program of seasonal music TBA. Reception to follow. *4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw Ave. Tickets $15 (seniors age 65 & over, $10; youth 18 & under, $5) in advance or at the door. a2yc.org, 996–4404.*

44th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 3 Friday. 4 p.m.

★**"Performance Improvisation & Practice Showing": U-M Dance Department.** Fifty-minute performances by students in U-M dance professor Amy Chavasse's improvisation (4 p.m.) & performance practices (5:10 p.m.) classes. *4 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 763–5460.*

Michigan Pops Orchestra. Leonard Bopp directs this playful 100-member ensemble, the only student-run orchestra on campus, in music from Tchaikovsky's *Marche Slave,* Marvel's *The Avengers,* Disney's *Mulan,* the Lord of the Rings trilogy, and more. With a guest vocalist TBA, stage antics, and special effects. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $9 (college students, $5; students K–12 & seniors, free). Masks & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. MichiganPops.org.*

★**Digital Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Stephen Rush directs this music student group performing *Music in 12 Parts,* Phillip Glass's rarely played 1974 minimalist epic inspired by Indian ragas. Includes an extended intermission and **potluck dinner** (7:15–8:15 p.m.). Earplugs encouraged. *5–10:30 p.m. or so, U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits. Free. Masks required. 615–3204.*

"Singing Sassy, Lady Day, and Queen": Kerrytown Concert House. Performance by **Melissa Morgan,** an L.A.-based jazz vocalist whose bluesy, soulful style draws on influences from Dinah Washington to Billie Holiday. Her 2009 album, *Until I Met You,* was praised for its free-spirited arrangements of jazz standards. Tonight she is accompanied by guitarist Randy Napoleon, a New York–based Ann Arbor native, veteran local bassist Paul Keller, and drummer David Alvarez III. Livestream available at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. *7:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $13–$50 in advance online and at the door. Mask & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. 769–2999.*

6 MONDAY

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** *Every Mon. through Dec. 13.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. Led by new director Ben Gaughran, with piano accompanist Joshua Marzan. *10–11:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors ($125 per semester dues for those who join). Masks and vaccination required. WomensChamberChorus.com, 665–9271.*

★**"Health Justice": U-M Ford School for Public Policy.** Livestream discussion with Fatima Hassan, a human rights lawyer who founded the Health Justice Initiative in South Africa, and Ford School policymaker-in-residence Abdul El-Sayed, a former Detroit Health Department director. *11 a.m.–noon, for URL see bit.ly/fatimahassanhealthjustice. Free. stpp@umich.edu. 764–3490.*

★**"Science-in-Vivo: Experimental Methods for the 'Bananapocalypse'": U-M Science, Technology, and Society.** U-M anthropology professor Alyssa Paredes discusses current efforts to control the deadly soil-borne fungal disease that has stumped the global banana industry. *4–5:30 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. UMstsContact@umich.edu.*

★**Ann Arbor Area Scrabble Club.** *Every Mon.* All invited to play the classic word game, using the 5th edition Scrabble dictionary. Bring your own set, if you like. *5–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company Corner Brewery, 720 Norris St., Ypsilanti. Free. burrbarr7@hotmail.com.*

★**Community Workshop: U-M Prison Creative Arts Program.** All are invited to join students, transformative justice advocates, and formerly incarcerated individuals in writing and drawing exercises, including working from prompts, with an emphasis on supportive group interaction. Also, **livestream workshops** (Dec. 2 & 9) available at myumi.ch/2DxyB. *6–7:30 p.m., East Quad, rm. 1807, 701 East University. Free. Masks required. mheinen@umich.edu.*

★**"Grieve Well During the Holidays": GrieveWell.** *Dec. 6 & 13.* GrieveWell programs director Christy Miller discusses how to develop a plan for managing grief during this time. *7–8:15 (Dec. 13) & 1–2:15 (Dec. 13), for URL preregister at GrieveWell.com/calendar. Free. 975–0238.*

★**"What Is Being Done to Combat Climate Change? What Is Not Being Done? How Can**

You Help?": Temple Beth Emeth. Talk (via Zoom) by U-M environmental law professor David Uhlmann, a recent nominee to head the EPA enforcement and compliance office. Followed by a panel discussion. *7 p.m., for URL preregister at TempleBethEmeth.org. Free. 665–4744.*

James S.A. Corey: Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati. The *New York Times* bestselling pseudonymous duo of Daniel Abraham & Ty Franck discuss (via Zoom) their recent book ***Leviathan Falls,*** the 9th and final installment in the Hugo award-winning Expanse series, a sprawling space opera about an interstellar war between human factions set hundreds of years in the future. *7 p.m., for URL preregister at literatibookstore.com/event/2021–12. $34, includes a copy of the book. 585–5567.*

★**34th Annual Jewish Book Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Thursday. *Today:* U-M anthropology professor Ruth Behar is joined by Ann Arborite Jennie Lieberman to discuss (via Zoom) her new novel, ***Letters from Cuba.*** It's a moving story set in 1937 about a young girl who writes to her father in Cuba, begging him to allow her to leave Poland and join him in his new home. 7 p.m.

★**University Symphony Orchestra: U-M Music School.** Kenneth Kiesler conducts this music student ensemble in Brahms' 3rd Symphony, Ravel's *La Valse,* and *Three Latin American Dances,* a "dazzling" work according to *Classics Today* by Gabriela Lena Frank, a contemporary American composer (and U-M grad) known for compositions reflecting her Peruvian heritage that feature what the *New York Times* describes as "folk melodies woven into high-spirited pieces full of vibrant colors." *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. Masks required. 764–2538.*

★**Comedy Open Mic: The Blind Pig.** *Every Mon.* Performances by up to 15 aspiring stand-up comics from around the state. Local comics emcee. To perform, sign up by sending a message on Facebook or Instagram (search "Blind Pig Comedy Show"). Age 21 & up only. *8–9:30 p.m. or so, Blind Pig, 208 S. First St. Free. 996–8555.*

7 TUESDAY

★**"A Vineyard Garden in the Afterlife": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** Vassar College art history & Asian studies professor Jin Xu discusses visual representations of vineyard gardens in 6th-century China. *Noon–1 p.m., for URL preregister at myumi.ch/Gk4pp. Free. chinese.studies@umich.edu, 764–6308.*

★**34th Annual Jewish Book Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Thursday. *Today:* Two Zoom talks. Tel Aviv writer Einat Nathan is joined by local psychotherapist Ruth Moscow-Cohen to discuss her new memoir ***My Everything: The Parent I Want to Be, The Children I Hope to Raise*** (1 p.m.). And Sydney-based writers Lisa Goldberg, Merelyn Chalmers, and Natanya Eskin share recipes from their cookbook ***Now for Something Sweet*** (7 p.m.). 1 & 7 p.m.

"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. *Every Tues.* All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap tips. *6–9 p.m. or so, Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. $2 monthly dues. momofpipi@gmail.com.*

★**Death Cafe: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Interfaith Center Minister Annie Kopko leads a frank conversation about death via Zoom. *6:30 p.m., for URL see InterfaithSpirit.org. Free, but donations appreciated. 327–0270.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Tues.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7–8 p.m., for location email info@HVharmonizers.org. Free to visitors (annual dues for those who join). 796–7467.*

★**Voices in Harmony.** *Every Tues.* Female singers invited to join the weekly virtual rehearsals of this local 40-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. *7–9:30 p.m., for URL email Info@VoicesInHarmonyChorus.org. Free to visitors ($26 monthly dues for those who join). 765–3611.*

★**Virtual Trivia Night: Ann Arbor Adventure Club.** *Every Tues.* All invited to form teams of 4 or so persons to compete (via Zoom) in a family-friendly 2-round trivia contest featuring questions in a range of fields from entertainment and history to pop culture and geography. Solo competitors are matched up together. *7 p.m., for URL email burrbarr7@hotmail.com. Free.*

★**"Capture the Flag Fridays": All Hands Active.** *Every Tues.* All invited to try to capture a virtual flag by solving a computer security problem (or series of problems), ranging from basic computer usage to some programming. Led by AHA members. Beginners welcome. *7 p.m., for URL preregister at MeetUp.com/AllHandsActive. Free, but donations welcome. info@AllHandsActive.org.*

★**"What Just Happened: Notes on a Long Year": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** Literary critic, novelist, and essayist **Charles Finch** discusses (via Zoom) his new book, a candid and often funny commentary on the year 2020, reflecting on the Covid-19 pandemic, racial justice protests, the U.S presidential election, and more. *7 p.m., for URL see literatibookstore.com/event/2021–12. Free. 585–5567.*

★**German Conversation.** *Every Tues.* All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with the long-running German Speakers Round Table. *7:30 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free. 812–6375.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Club members show their projected digital images and prints on various topics, including this month's assignment, **"Night Photography."** *7:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 Liberty. Free. Masks and proof of vaccination required. a2camclub@gmail.com.*

★**"Imaginative Thinking: A Process of the Heart": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America.** Freelance eurythmist Claudia Fontana discusses aspects of Rudolf Steiner's epistemology. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. Masks required for the unvaccinated. 276–5294.*

David Sedaris: Live Nation. Known for his acidic humor, sharp-witted verbal elegance, and sardonically incisive social critiques, this popular satirist made his comic debut in 1992 on NPR *Morning Edition* recounting his strange-but-true experiences as a Macy's elf clad in green tights, later recorded in his *SantaLand Diaries.* Today, Sedaris offers recollections of some highlights of his career and reads from recent work, which includes a collection of diary entries (*A Carnival of Snackery*) and a compendium of his best stories (*The Best of Me*). *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $56–$66 in advance at TicketMaster.com & all Ticketmaster outlets, and (if available) at the door. Masks & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required for all patrons over the age of 12. (800) 745–3000.*

8 WEDNESDAY

★**"Centering Justice": Nonprofit Enterprise at Work.** Livestream talk featuring 3 leaders of black, indigenous, and other people of color discussing what they understand it to mean to live in a just, equitable, and thriving society, while also giving examples of ways to get involved and take action in your community. *Noon–1:30 p.m., for URL preregister at bit.ly/attendcenteringjustice. Free, but donations accepted. infor@new.org.*

★**"In the Midst of Civilized Europe: The Pogroms of 1918–1921 and the Onset of the Holocaust": U-M Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies Book Series.** U-M history & Judaic studies professor Jeffrey Veidlinger discusses his new book via Zoom. Q&A. *Noon–1:20 p.m., for URL preregister at myumi.ch/zxQPx. Free. 764–0351.*

"Art Talks: Picturing America": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Afternoons with OLLI. Art historian Wendy Evans discusses (via Zoom) paintings by John Singleton Copley, Jackson Pollock, Norman Rockwell, Edward Hopper, and more. *3:30–5 p.m., for URL preregister at olliumich.org. $10 per lecture for members. Memberships are $25 a year. 998–9351.*

★**Teen Pride Book Talk: Ann Arbor District Library.** An AADL staffer discusses ***All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto,*** writer and gender-and-sexual-identity activist George M. Johnson's recent collection of essays exploring his childhood and college years in New Jersey and Virginia. Geared towards kids age 14 & up. *4–4:30 p.m., online at AADL.tv (a YouTube channel). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore.** All invited to read and discuss (via Zoom) poetry or short fiction. Have your original work ready to share, if you wish. *7–8:45 p.m. (sign-up for new participants begins at 6:45 p.m.), for URL email cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com. Free.*

★**34th Annual Jewish Book Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Thursday. *Today:* Virginia-based writer Rachel Beanland discusses ***Florence Adler Swims Forever,*** her new novel, set in 1930s Atlantic City, about a Jewish-American family dealing with the challenges of economic mobility, antisemitism, and intermarriage. 7 p.m.

★**"Fishing Paint Creek and the Clinton River": Trout Unlimited Ann Arbor Chapter.** Club vice president Ethan Cramer gives a livestream presentation on the Clinton River watershed, with a par-

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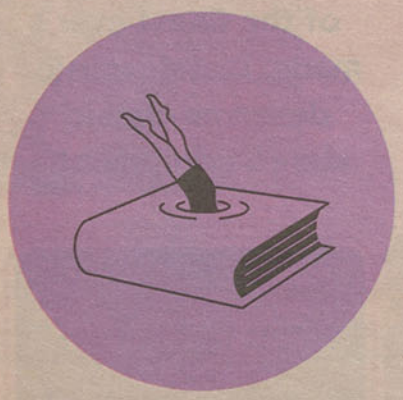

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ticular focus on Paint Creek, a cold-water tributary that supports trout year-round. *7 p.m., for URL see annarborTU.org. Free. 975–0234.*

★**"The Hidden Case of Ewan Forbes: And the Unwritten History of the Trans Experience": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** University of London medical humanities professor emeritus **Zoë Playdon** discusses (via Zoom) her new book, the story of an aristocratic Scottish trans man in the 1960s who, when his brother suddenly dies, is forced to defend his male status in Scotland's supreme court in order to inherit the family title. *7 p.m., for URL see literatibookstore.com/event/2021–12. Free. 585–5567.*

★**"Zero Waste and the Future of Recycling": Ann Arbor Area League of Women Voters Brews & Views.** Livestream talk by Ecology Center executive director Mike Garfield. *7–8:30 p.m., for URL see LWVwashtenaw.org (click "Calendar"). Free. 272–3634.*

★**"Jews, Bluegrass, and Other 'American' Music: EMU Center for Jewish Studies.** Talk by Jewish American singer-songwriters Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg of **Nefesh Mountain** (see Dec. 7 Ark listing in Nightspots), a Montclair (NJ) quartet whose soulful music blends Appalachian bluegrass, Celtic folk, and Jewish prayers and Psalms. Livestream available at today.emich.edu/calendar. *7–9 p.m., EMU Student Center, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. Free. Masks required. 455–1369.*

★**Dan Weiss and Miles Okazaki: U-M Center for World Performance Studies.** Experimental and improvised jazz by the NYC duo of drummer Weiss and guitarist (and U-M jazz lecturer) Okazaki, who recently released their debut collaboration, *Music for Drums and Guitar. 7 p.m., Keene Theater, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. Masks required. cwps.information@umich.edu.*

"Give 'Em Hell Harry": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. *Dec. 8–12.* Iowa-based actor **Fred Grandy,** a talk-show host and former U.S. congressman, presents Samuel Gallu's 1975 one-man show about the feisty 33rd president—and onetime haberdashery entrepreneur—Harry "The Buck Stops Here" Truman. *7:30–9:30 p.m. (Thurs. & Fri.) & 2–4 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Encore, 7714 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Tickets $46 (ages 62 & up and 17 & under, $44) in advance at TheEncoreTheatre.org. Masks required. 268–6200.*

★**"Let Woman Choose Her Sphere": U-M Concert Band.** Courtney Snyder directs this music student ensemble in a program featuring female singers, speakers, and composers to celebrate the centenary of the ratification of the 19th amendment. Highlighted by the world premiere of contemporary American flutist-composer Valerie Coleman's *Let Woman Choose Her Sphere.* Preceded by a gathering on the Ingalls Mall for **"Music of Women Composers for Carillon"** (6:30 p.m.), a prelude from the Burton Tower carillon, and followed at 7:15 p.m. by a lecture in the lower lobby. Livestream available at myumi.ch/HillWatch. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

9 THURSDAY

★**"Queer Jews and Muslims: A Roundtable on Race, Religion, Gender, and Sexuality": U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.** Livestream panel discussion with University of Wisconsin African cultural studies professor Katrina Daly Thompson, Ball State University anthropology professor Robert Phillips, Bryn Mawr (PA) Francophone literature professor Edwige Crucifix, King's College London interfaith relations professor Shanon Shah, and U-M romance languages professor Adi Saleem Bharat. *Noon–2 p.m., for URL preregister at myumi.ch/qgDEy. Free. 763–9047.*

"Ari's Best of 2021": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses some of his favorite Zingerman's products. At-home tasting kits available for an additional $35. Ari also gives an in-person "Best of" talk on 15 Wednesday (see listing). *6:30–8 p.m., for URL see ZingermansDeli.com/events. $15. 395–1696.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics. This perennial national power opens its season with an exhibition match vs. **CMU.** *7 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets TBA at mgoblue.com/tickets. Masks required. 764–0247.*

★**"Singing for Comfort": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a virtual sing-along of soothing songs that are easy to learn. No experience necessary. *7 p.m., for URL see InterfaithSpirit.org. Free, but donations appreciated. 327–0270.*

★**"Squirrel Hill, The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting, and the Soul of a Neighborhood": Temple Beth Emeth.** Yale Journalism Initiative director Mark Oppenheimer, host of the podcast *Unorthodox,* discusses his new book about the 2018 mass shooting in a predominantly Jewish area of Pittsburgh. Q&A. Livestream available at TempleBethEmeth.org. *7 p.m., TBE Sanctuary, 2309 Packard. Free, but preregistration required. Masks required. 665–4744.*

★**34th Annual Jewish Book Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Thursday. *Today:* NYC-based psychotherapist Ian Kerner, author of *She Comes First,* discusses (via Zoom) his new guidebook ***So Tell Me About the Last Time You Had Sex: Laying Bare and Learning to Repair Our Love Lives.*** 7 p.m.

★**"Sing to the Colors": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** Former *Detroit News* reporter **James Tobin** discusses (via Zoom) his new history of the U-M. Some of the book's 23 essays detail major milestones, from the enrollment of the first female students in the 1870s to the 1970 Black Action Movement strike, and others illuminate the relationship between the university and the city, revisiting former town-gown mainstays like the Pretzel Bell and Drake's Sandwich Shop. *7 p.m., for URL see literatibookstore.com/event/2021–12. Free. 585–5567.*

"Treasure Island": Father Gabriel Richard High School Drama Club. *Dec. 9-12.* Elizabeth Champion directs this student theater ensemble in a production of Ken Ludwig's 2018 adaptation of the Robert Louis Stevenson novel about a boy who gets swept up in a swashbuckling high seas adventure with the charismatic pirate Long John Silver. *7 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Ypsilanti Community High School Auditorium, Packard & Hewitt. Tickets $10 (kids, $5; families, $30). Masks required. echampion@fgrhs.org.*

★**"Home for Christmas": Ypsilanti Community Choir.** Ariel Toews-Ricotta directs the choir in an eclectic program of seasonal choral music and big-band favorites. Accompanist is Maria Cimarelli. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti, 300 N. Huron St. Free. 481–9285, YpsiCommChoir@gmail.com.*

"Ballet Through the Eras": EMU Music & Dance Department. EMU dance professor Sherry Jerome-Wilkinson directs EMU dance students, accompanied by members of the EMU orchestra, in works by new and celebrated choreographers, with music by Ludwig Minkus, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Ravel, Cesare Pugni, and Stravinsky. Livestream available on YouTube.com (search "EMU School of Music & Dance"). *7 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl., Ypsilanti. Tickets TBA. Masks required. 546–7115.*

Christmas Dance: Ann Arbor Ski Club. With dancing to music spun by a DJ and a gorgeous sweater contest. Must be 21 or older. The night starts off with the chance to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings, and other social activities. *7:30–10:30 p.m., UA Local 190 Hall, 7920 Jackson Rd. $5 (members, free). Proof of Covid vaccination required. a2skiclub@gmail.com.*

"Give 'Em Hell Harry": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 8 Wednesday. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Comedy Jamm: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Jazz Lab and Jazz Ensemble: U-M Music School.** Ellen Rowe directs the Jazz Ensemble and Dennis Wilson directs the Jazz Lab Ensemble. Features guest trumpeter Terrell Stafford. Programs TBA. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Masks required. Free. 615–3204.*

★**"Considering Matthew Shepard": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series.** Virtual screening of a recent performance by the **U-M Chamber Choir** of this Grammy-nominated Craig Hella Johnson oratorio, an evocative, compassionate musical response to the notorious anti-gay murder that incorporates a variety of musical styles and interweaves poetry by Hildegard of Bingen, Lesléa Newman, Michael Dennis Browne, and Rumi. Followed by a discussion with the composer and conductor Eugene Rogers. *8 p.m., for URL see bit.ly/stampsfall2021. Free.*

"The Winter Wolf": The Penny Seats Theatre. See 3 Friday. 8 p.m.

10 FRIDAY

★**Grand Opening and Holiday Show and Sale: Yourist Studio Gallery.** *Dec. 10–12.* Display of both functional and decorative ceramics by 21 Yourist studio artists. This annual show also celebrates the opening of Yourist's spacious new facility. Masks required. *4–8 p.m. (Fri.), 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (Sat.), & 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sun.), 6087 Jackson Rd. Free. YouristPottery.com, 662–4914.*

★**U-M Clements Library Tour.** Hour-long docent-led tour of the early American history collection featuring Benjamin West's iconic painting *The Death of General Wolfe,* a Revolutionary War-era trunk that once housed British commander-in-chief Thomas Gage's papers, and more. *4:15 p.m.*

galleries

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. *Mary Murphy* (Dec. 6–Jan. 14). Watercolors and other mediums by this local artist, whose work often explores the tranquility found in nature. Opening reception Dec. 9, 4–6 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m (except Dec. 24–31). 662–3279.

Concordia University Kreft Center for the Arts, 4090 Geddes. *Fall Finesse* (Nov. 30–Dec. 17). Works in various media by Concordia non-art major students. Mon.–Fri. noon–4 p.m. 995–7391.

Creal Microgallery, 1215 Creal Cres.. front yard. *Rogues Gallery* (Dec. 5–Jan. 9). Stencil prints depicting archetypal villains from Bollywood films of the 70s & 80s in the style of Russian propaganda posters by local artist Sajeev Krishnan. Sunrise–11 p.m. levickas@hotmail.com.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals), online only at bit.ly/giftsofart (Dec. 13–Mar. 4). *Layered Works of Nature.* Prints, drawings, paintings, and collages interpreting the ephemeral qualities of nature by Traverse City–based artist Carolyn Swift. *Ceramic Vessels.* Functional ceramic by local designer-educator Mark Meier. *To Everything There is a Season.* Micro and macro photography of Michigan's natural beauty by area and national artists in the Group f/16. *Weathered: Ceramic Sculpture.* Haunting clay figurative work by Detroit native Austen Brantley. *Bouquet of Rhythms.* Abstract paintings by Detroit artist Harold Allen. *A Varied Imagination.* Watercolor & acrylic by local artist Ruthanne Baker. *Flights of American Life.* Ceramic paper planes by Milford-based artist Frank James Fisher. *Anticipation of Spring.* Watercolor of freshly cut flowers by local artist Joanne Porter.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. *The Greenhouse Gallery: Holiday 2021 Conservatory Exhibit* (Nov. 26–Jan. 9). Works in multimedia exploring the line, form, color, shape, movement, rhythm, and proportion of plants. Tues. & Thurs.–Sun. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Wed. 10 a.m.–8 p.m. 647–7808.

Pop-up Gallery on Main St., 210 S. Main. *Catch Us While You Can!* (Nov. 19–Dec. 24). Ceramics, photography, functional woodworking, and fiber art, as well as written word, poetry, and art books by local artists including John Van Eck, Cheryl Dawdy, and others. Masks required. Tues.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–8 p.m. and Fri.–Sun. noon–9 p.m.

WSG Gallery, 111 E. Ann. *Holiday Show* (Dec. 1–30). Glass, jewelry, book arts, drawings, and more by local artists Linda Heckenkamp, Alvey Jones, Marcia Polenberg, Maria Ruggiero, Idelle Hammond-Sass, Jaye Schlesinger, Dylan Strzynski, Simon Waranch, Cody Winter, and Monica Wilson, and more. Masks required. Wed. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thurs. & Sun. noon–5 p.m., Fri. noon–7 p.m., and Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. 929–2621. Online at wsg-art.com. *Still … Moving* (Nov. 30–Dec. 27). Each of WSG's members display a work based on the theme.

Clements Library, 909 S. University. Free, preregister at myumi.ch/Aw9Zb. 764–2347.

★**Game Night.** All invited to play any type of tabletop game, including board games, role playing, and card games. Bring your own game, or use one provided. *6:30–10 p.m., The Tech Brewery, 1327 Jones Dr., ste. 106. Free. victor@LHPress.com.*

"Euchre Change a Life!" Five-game euchre tournament. Sign up with a partner, or get paired with one by the organizers. Prizes. Proceeds benefit Haitian Emmanuel Christian School children in 3 locations. *6:30–9 p.m., 2|42 Community Center Ann Arbor, 648 S. Wagner Rd. $10 donation per player in advance by Dec. 8 at Facebook.com/EuchreChangeALife; $20 at the door. EuchreChangeALife@gmail.com.*

★**"An Organist's Christmas": American Guild of Organists.** A festive program of Christmas music, including a sing-along of favorite carols (with organ accompaniment) and solo performances on the church's impressive pipe organ by local organists. Reception follows. *7 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State St. Free. 994–4455.*

"The Short and Suite Nutcracker": Randazzo Dance Company. *Dec. 10–12.* Sara Randazzo and Roya Panahi direct this local company of young dancers in a holiday program highlighted by ballet set to excerpts from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite,* including Clara and the Nutcracker Prince recounting their fight with the evil Mouse Queen and their journey to the enchanted land where they meet the Sugar Plum Fairy, Mother Ginger, and her little Gumdrops. The varied program begins with a showcase of 19th-century dances and jazz and tap dances with a live Miles Davis score by the local trio of bassist Rob Bickley, trumpeter Mark Kirschenmann, and keyboardist Rick Roe. *7 p.m. (Fri.) & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Power Center. Tickets $15–$25 in advance at muto.umich.edu and at the door. Masks & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. RandazzoDanceCompany.com.*

Fall Show: U-M Impact Dance. This 18-member all-female student company presents an energetic, family-friendly program of original dances that range from lyrical jazz to hip-hop and tap. Although the students aren't dance majors, Impact's quality of dance is quite high. *7 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets $10 (students, $5) in advance at muto.umich.edu and at the door. impactdance@umich.edu.*

"One Small Step for Can": U-M Groove Performance Group. Performance by this high-energy U-M student percussion-and-dance ensemble, which uses both traditional and nontraditional instruments (trash cans, buckets, propane tanks, toothbrushes, and more). Opener: U-M student glowstick group **Photonix.** *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $8 (students, $5) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (muto.umich.edu), and (if available) at the door. Masks & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. facebook.com/umGroove.*

"A Year With Frog and Toad": EMU Theatre Department. See 3 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Treasure Island": Father Gabriel Richard High School Drama Club. See 9 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"Holidays Are Hard: An Evening with Local Authors": Booksweet Bookshop.** Seasonally inspired readings for adults and teens by 5 local poets: **Ellen Stone, Scott Beal, Jennifer Sperry Steinorth, Jennifer Metsker,** and **Julie Babcock.** *7:30–9 p.m., Booksweet, Courtyard Shops, 1729 Plymouth Rd. Free; preregistration required at ShopBooksweet.com. Masks & proof of vaccination required. 929–4112.*

★**U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from 2 celebrated plays: ***Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes,*** Tony Kushner's multi-play exploration of the apocalyptic fears at the heart of contemporary culture, and ***'night, Mother,*** Marsha Norman's controversial 1983 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about a divorced woman, living with her mother, who chooses suicide in an effort to take control of her own life. *7:30 p.m., Keene Theater, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. Masks required. 647–4354.*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Give 'Em Hell Harry": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 8 Wednesday. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Mike Geeter: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 10 & 11.* Pontiac stand-up comic known for witty shows that draw on the trials and tribulations of fatherhood and marriage as well as his upbringing in a family of 17 kids. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) and 9:30 p.m. (Sat. only), Comedy Showcase, 212 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15 reserved seating in advance, $17 general admission at the door (capacity reduced). 996–9080, aaComedy.com.*

Claudia Schmidt: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). One of Ann Arbor's long-time favorite acoustic performers, Schmidt sings in a strikingly luminous, warmly ingratiating voice that has been described as "clear as a supper bell, strong as 3-day-old tea." Her repertoire includes intimately personal original songs and a mixed bag of traditional and contemporary tunes. She accompanies herself on 12-string guitar, dulcimer, and Deluxe Pianolin (a 52-string plucked and bowed instrument that produces an ethereal, ghostly sound), and other folk instruments. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.), FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 in advance at GreenWoodCoffeeHouse.org or phone 665–8558 (leave a message with your name, performance date, & # of tickets), and at the door.*

"Annual Holiday Pops": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Germany-based American conductor Kazem Abdullah—a candidate for A2SO's permanent music director—leads the orchestra in a program of seasonal music, including Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker Suite* and more. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $22–$80 in advance at a2so.com. Mask & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. tickets.a2so.com.*

"The Winter Wolf": The Penny Seats Theatre. See 3 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** All invited to peer through the observatory and rooftop telescopes and to view planetarium shows. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. *9–11 p.m., 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (enter through Haven Hall on the Diag side of the building). Free. Masks required. 764–3440.*

11 SATURDAY

Huron Gun Collectors. *Dec. 11 & 12.* About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including antiques and collectibles. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $5. HuronGunCollectors.com (517) 546–4710.*

★**"Family Nature Adventures: Holiday Nature Craft": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalists Kelsey Dehring, Shawn Severance, and Elle Bogle lead a hands-on introduction to doing various crafts using found natural materials. Bonfire and hot cocoa. *10 a.m.–noon, Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings Rd. (north off North Territorial), Whitmore Lake. Free. Space limited; preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org (registration #821002).*

★**"Holiday Pop-Up Craft & Vendor Fair": King of Kings Lutheran Church.** Sale of handmade gifts, soaps, specialty foods, and more. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., King of Kings, 2685 Packard. Free admission. Masks required. 255–0118.*

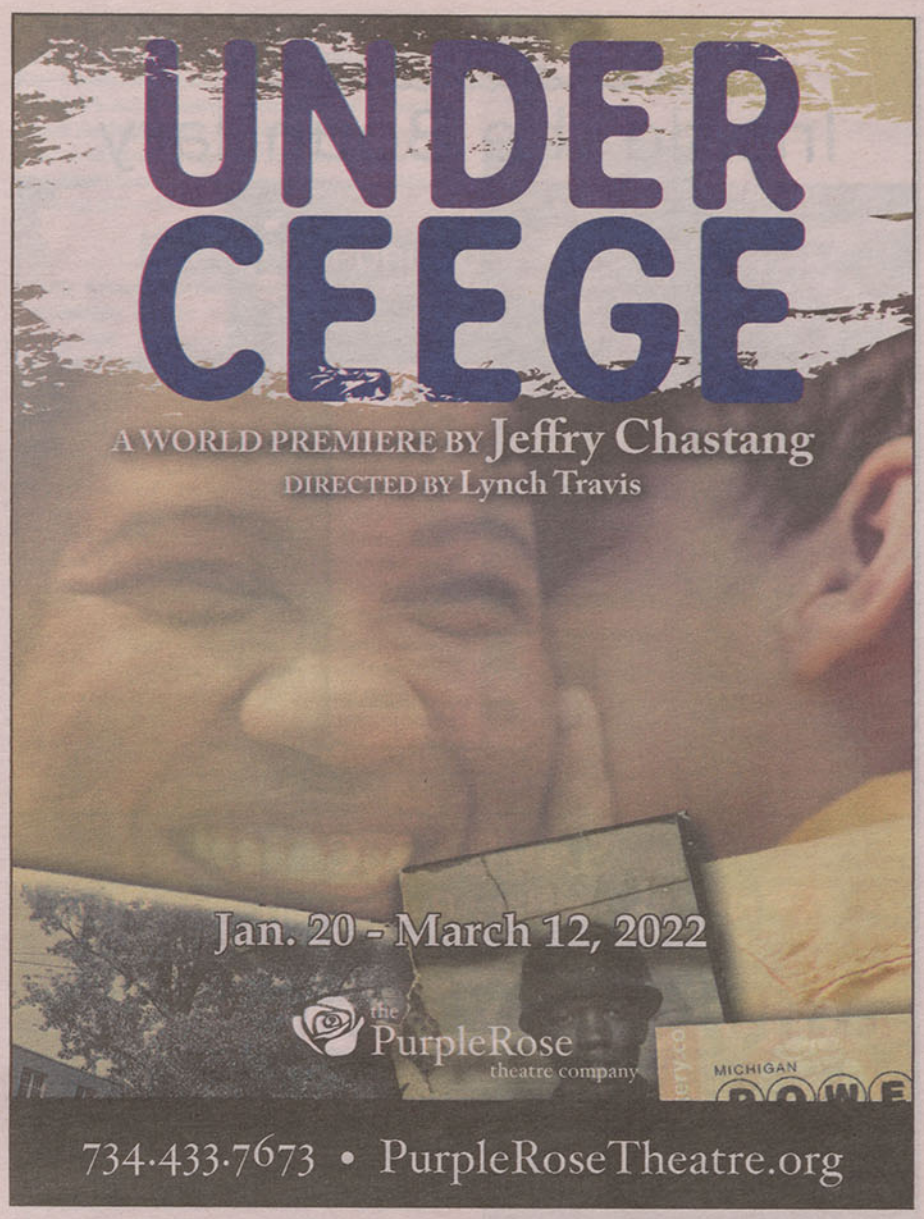
★**"Dance Showcase": Akshara Rasa Festival.** Four accomplished native performers of Indian classical dance present (virtually) 3 different styles of traditional dance: Mohiniyattam, Bharatanatyam, and Kathak. Followed by a panel discussion with the dancers. Akshara is a local organization devoted to the classical arts of India. *10 a.m., online at aadl.org/rasafestival. Free. facebook.com/rasafestival.*

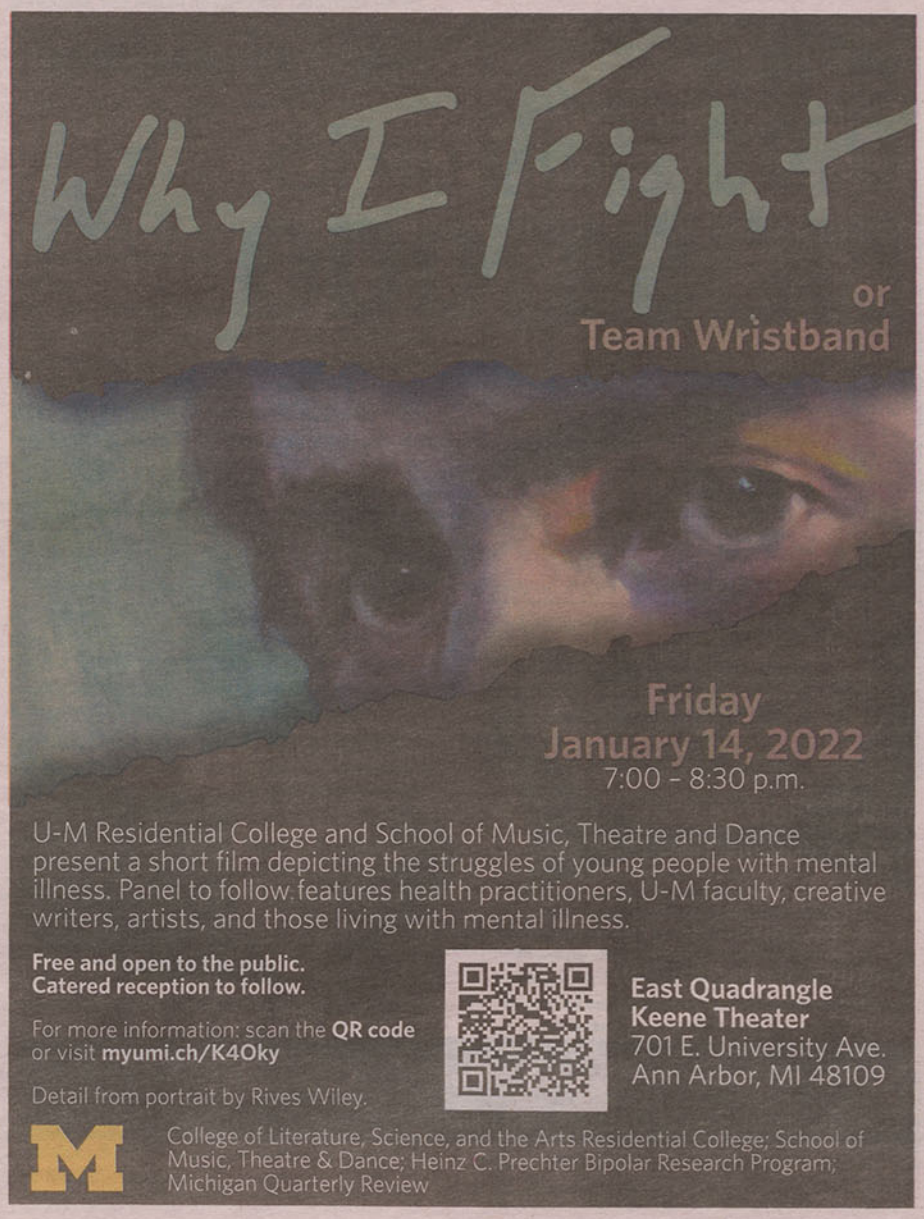
★**11th Annual Tiny Expo: Ann Arbor District Library.** Show and sale of holiday gifts by 45 local artists and crafters. *11 a.m.–6 p.m., AADL Downtown lobby, 343 S. Fifth. Free admission. 327–4200, TinyExpo.com*

★**"Celebrate Kookie and Cookie Christmas Party": MacTechnics.** All invited to share their most memorable experiences relating to discovery or personal growth with Mac or Apple products. Mac questions of any kind welcome. *11 a.m.–1 p.m., for URL email Contact@MacTechnics.org. Free. MacTechnics.org.*

"Christmas at Rentschler Farm": Saline Area Historical Society. *Dec. 11 & 12.* A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas, with natural decorations. Other activities TBA. *Noon–4 p.m., Rentschler Farm Museum, 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Pay-what-you-can. SalineHistory@Frontier.com, 944–0442.*

★**"Stewardship Saturday": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** All invited to





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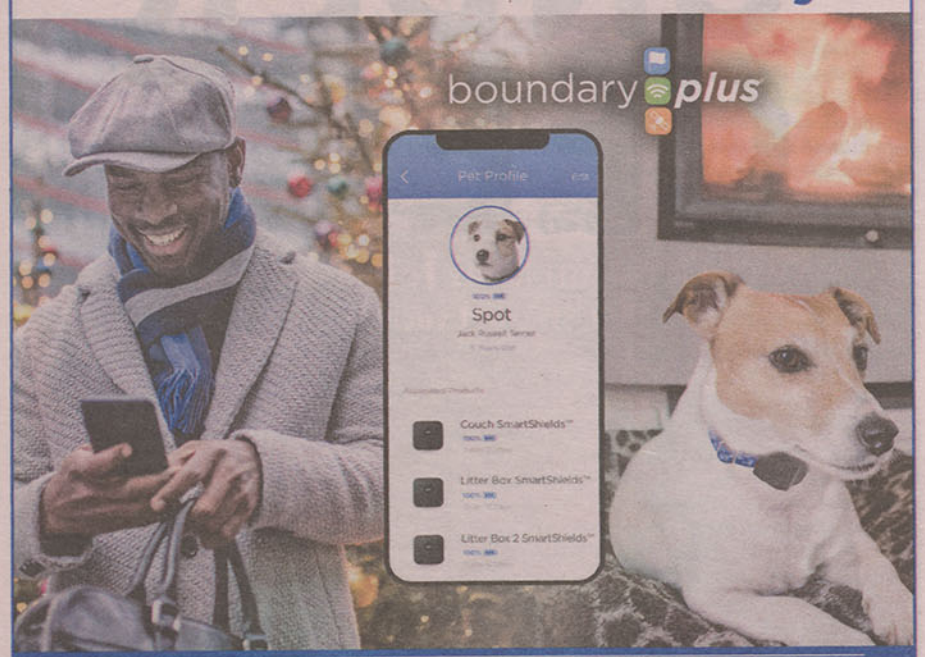

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help remove invasive shrubs in less-traveled public areas. Be prepared for working off-trail. No experience necessary; tools and know-how will be provided. *1–3 p.m., Park Lyndon North, 18801 N. Territorial, Chelsea. Free. Space limited; preregistration required by emailing carlislec@washtenaw.org.*

41st Annual Winter Festival: Rudolf Steiner School. Online this year, featuring livestream crafting demos, music and other entertainment TBA, and a raffle. Geared towards children age 12 & under. *1–3 p.m., for URL see steinerschool.org/support/winterfestival.cfm. Free. 995–4141.*

★**"On the Road for Climate Action": The Citizens Climate Lobby.** CCL-Ann Arbor group leader Ginny Rogers demonstrates (via Zoom) how electromagnetic induction works in at-home cooking appliances and discusses its benefits. (New, eco-friendly methods of powering appliances is a key component of the A2Zero carbon neutrality plan.) Followed by a general discussion on club affairs. *2 p.m., for URL preregister at bit.ly/inductioncookingdemo. Free. annarbor@citizensclimatelobby.org, 657–3150.*

56th Annual Community Messiah Sing. All people capable of reading and performing vocal parts are invited to join (via Zoom) this venerable local seasonal tradition, a friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio, directed by Richard Ingram. Over 100 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. Orchestra players are welcome to play along. Scores provided online. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) In-person option, if any, TBA. *2–5 p.m., for URL and other updates, see facebook.com (search "Ann Arbor Community Messiah Sing"). a2messiahsing@gmail.com.*

"The Nutcracker Suite and Spirit of the Season": Ann Arbor Dance Classics. *Dec. 11 & 12.* Young local dancers perform excerpts of Tchaikovsky's Christmas ballet. *2 p.m., Milan High School Performing Arts Center, 200 Big Red Dr., Milan. Tickets $18 (seniors & youth, $16) in advance by phone and at the door. 302–4248.*

"Give 'Em Hell Harry": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 8 Wednesday. 2–4 p.m.

★**"Night of Christmas Joy": Peace Lutheran Church.** An evening of family-friendly entertainment, highlighted by Nativity scene walk-thrus (every 30-minutes on the half hour), pictures with Santa, a cookie decorating contest, and caroling led by **Friends in Harmony** choir. Also, live animals and a Christmas-themed raffle. *3–7 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 8260 Jackson Rd. Free admission. 424–0899.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Boychoir music director John Boonenberg leads this local ensemble of boys ages 7–18, accompanied by First United Methodist Church organist Naki Sung-Kripfgans, in its 35th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the traditional processional "Once in Royal David's City," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day." Also, Glenn Rudolph's setting of Thomas Troeger's moving "The Dream Isaiah Saw," John Rutter's classic Christmas anthem "Christ is the Morning Star," Steven Heitzeg's evocative setting of E.E. Cummings' "little tree," Elaine Hagenberg's vivacious "Alleluia," a beautiful setting of "Away in a Manger" by British composer David Hill, and John Tavener's transcendent "Awed by the Beauty." Audience sing-alongs of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful" are kicked off with a soaring Boychoir descant verse. This concert usually sells out. *3 p.m. (doors open at 2:40 p.m.), Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes. Tickets $20 (youths 17 & under, free) in advance at BoychoirA2.EventBrite.com & Tickets@a2BoyChoir.org, and at the door. Masks required. 663–5377.*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Friday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

★**Know Obstacles: Oz's Music Environment.** All invited to play instruments, sing songs, and tell jokes with members of this band comprised of kids and adults with special needs. Spectators welcome. *3:30 p.m., Oz's Music, 1920 Packard. Free. Masks required. 662–8283.*

★**"Holiday Hustle": Running Fit Events.** Competitive 5-km run/walk with awards for the top 3 finishers in various age categories. Medals for all finishers. Knit beanies for all participants. Preceded at 4 p.m. by a 1-mile fun run. *4:30 p.m., Monument Park, downtown Dexter. $39 (fun run, $29; fun run age 17 & under, $19) through noon on Dec. 9; $45 (fun run, $35; fun run age 17 & under, $25) on race weekend. Preregistration available at RunHoliday5k.com. 929–9022.*

Murder Mystery Dinner Show: The Dinner Detective Ann Arbor. See 4 Saturday. 6:30–9 p.m.

Marlena Studer & Steve Ragsdale: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704. Local duo of Struder, a veteran jazz vocalist known for her passionate interpretations of standards, and guitarist Ragsdale. Dancing encouraged. Livestream available. *7–9 p.m. Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $10; preregistration required in advance only at InterfaithSpirit.org. Masks required. 327–0270.*

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. *Dec. 11 & 12.* Lisa Darby Clark directs local dancers and members of Jazz Dance Theater in Dance Alliance's 24th annual production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. *7 p.m. (Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sun.), Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets $16 in advance at Dance Alliance Dec. 4 & 11, 9:30 a.m.–noon, and at the door. Masks required. DanceAlliance@comcast.net.*

Winter Showcase: Salto Dance Company. This U-M student dance troupe performs original pieces in a variety of styles, including classical ballet, jazz, and modern dance. *7–9 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. $10 (students, $8). Masks required. SaltoDance@umich.edu.*

"A Year With Frog and Toad": EMU Theatre Department. See 3 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Treasure Island": Father Gabriel Richard High School Drama Club. See 9 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Candlelight Concert": EMU Music Department. EMU choral director Brandon Johnson leads the EMU choirs in a festive program featuring traditional carols, a string quartet, dancing, poetry, and more. *7:30 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl., Ypsilanti. Tickets $20 (students, $10; entire immediate family, $75) in advance at EventBrite.com. 487–0280.*

Mike Geeter: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 10 Friday. 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.

"Allman Family Revival": Live Nation. An evening of music to celebrate the life and work of Southern rock legend Gregg Allman, highlighted by a performance by the **Allman Betts Band,** a blues and blues-rock band fronted by singer-songwriter-guitarists Devon Allman and Duane Betts, the sons of Gregg and Allman Brothers Band cofounder Dickey Betts. Also, renowned pedal steel guitar "sacred steel" virtuoso **Robert Randolph,** the laid-back acoustic pop-rock singer-songwriter **Donavon Frankenreiter,** Nashville-based singer-songwriter **Lilly Hiatt** (John Hiatt's daughter), North Mississippi Allstars frontmen (and John Dickinson's sons) **Cody and Luther Dickinson,** blues-rock guitarist **Eric "Raw Dawg" Gales,** British blues-rock singer-guitarist **Joanne Shaw Taylor,** singer & harmonica player **Jimmy Hall,** former Allman Brothers Band bassist **Lamar Williams Jr.,** and others TBA.. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $35–$125 in advance at TicketMaster.com & all Ticketmaster outlets, and (if available) at the door. Masks & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required for all patrons over the age of 12. (800) 745–3000.*

"The Winter Wolf": The Penny Seats Theatre. See 3 Friday. 8 p.m.

12 SUNDAY

★**"Environmental Justice": First United Methodist Church Conversations About Science and Religion.** Locally based EPA environmental engineer James Pauer goes over what environmental justice is and offers suggestions as to what individuals can do to ensure that all people have the right to a clean environment. Followed by a group discussion. Livestream available by contacting Debbie Houghton at 662–4536 or debbie@gumc-a2.org (phone preferred). *9–10:15 a.m., FUMC Calkins Hall, 120 S. State. Free. Masks required. 662–4536.*

★**Winter Artisan Market: Argus Farm Stop.** Show and sale of handmade goods by 20 local artisans. The market is also open. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Argus, 325 Liberty. Free admission. 213–2200.*

"Christmas at Rentschler Farm": Saline Area Historical Society. See 11 Saturday. Noon–4 p.m.

★**"Chatter: The Voice in Our Head and How to Harness It": Jewish Community Center/Beth Israel Congregation.** U-M psychology professor **Ethan Kross** discusses (via Zoom) his book. *1–2 p.m., for URL preregister at jccAnnArbor.org/event/living-room-lectures-ethan-kross. Free. 971–0990.*

★**34th Annual Jewish Book Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Thursday. *Today:* San Francisco–based CEO of New Israeli Fund Daniel

Sokatch is joined (via Zoom) by U-M ophthalmology professor Jonathan D. Trobe to discuss ***Can We Talk About Israel?: A Guide for the Curious, Confused, and Conflicted,*** Sokatch's historical primer on the Israeli-Palestinan relationship. 1 p.m.

★**Holiday Open House: Ypsilanti Historical Museum.** This beautiful 1860s Italianate home is decorated in Victorian style for the holidays, with a Christmas tree, display of antique china, and more. *2–5 p.m., Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Free. Masks required. 482–4990.*

★**"Workshop with the Guild Poets": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** Original spoken word poetry by 6 student poets, who have been collaborating all semester with the Michigan-based Guild Poets collective. *2 p.m., Keene Theater, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. Masks required. TheGuildPoets@gmail.com.*

"The Nutcracker Suite and Spirit of the Season": Ann Arbor Dance Classics. See 11 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. See 11 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"A Year With Frog and Toad": EMU Theatre Department. See 3 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Treasure Island": Father Gabriel Richard High School Drama Club. See 9 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Winter Wolf": The Penny Seats Theatre. See 3 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Give 'Em Hell Harry": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 8 Wednesday. 2–4 p.m.

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**"The Glorious Sounds of Christmas Concert": First Presbyterian Church.** The church's chancel and children's choirs perform a festive program of Christmas music. Also, handbell tunes by the Sanctus Ringers. *4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 1432 Washtenaw Ave. Free. Masks & vaccines required. 662–4466.*

★**Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Orchestra.** This volunteer ensemble, conducted by Livingston Symphony Orchestra director David Schultz, is joined by the **Dexter High School Chamber Orchestras** for a festive holiday program highlighted by the rousing "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah.* Also, selections from Tchaikovsky's Christmas ballet *The Nutcracker Suite* and a carol sing-along. *4 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. Masks required. DexterCommunityOrchestra@gmail.org.*

★**Community Holiday Sing: Ann Arbor Civic Chorus.** Karen TenBrink directs the 40+ member chorus in a program TBA. Bring a chair to sit in, if you like. *5 p.m., Farmers Market, 315 Detroit St. Free. a2civicChorus.weebly.com.*

★**"Be Still & Know": Northside Community Church Christmas Choir Concert.** Performances by the church's chancel and bell choirs (directed by Sheree Gidcomb Clark and Paul Clark), as well as U-M School of Music student vocalists and instrumentalists, in a program of vocal and instrumental holiday music, along with spirituals. With pianist Kathryn Goodson. Reception follows. *6–7 p.m., NCC, 929 Barton Dr. Free. Masks required. 662–6351.*

George Shirley and Olivia Johnson: Kerrytown Concert House "Passing the Torch" Series. Renowned local tenor Shirley, a recipient of the National Medal of the Arts, and his former student, mezzo soprano Johnson, perform original compositions & improvisations and talk about their respective careers and the significance of intergenerational relationships in music. Pianist Timothy Cheek accompanies. Livestream available at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. *7:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $13–$50 in advance online and at the door. Mask & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. 769–2999.*

★**"Uncle Vanya": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from Chekhov's richly varied ensemble piece about the search for happiness—from love, achievement, or nature—at various stages of life. *8 p.m., Keene Theater, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. Masks required. 647–4354.*

13 MONDAY

★**34th Annual Jewish Book Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Thursday. *Today:* Two Zoom talks. Paris-based historian and journalist James McAuley discusses his new book ***The House of Fragile Things*** (1 p.m.), an exploration of the role that art and material culture played in the assimilation and identity of French Jews before WWII. Michigan sisters Abbe Greenberg and Maggie Sarachek, co-creators of the online help platform Anxiety Sisters, discuss their new guidebook, ***The Anxiety Sisters' Survival Guide: How You Can Become More Hopeful, Connected, and Happy*** (7 p.m.). 1 & 7 p.m.

★**"All Is Not as It Seems: Alchemy, Tinkering, and Stitching": Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild.** Deer Isle (ME)-based mixed-media artist Jennifer Lee Morrow, who specializes in detailed paper and textile techniques, discusses her artistic process. Livestream available; request access on AnnArborFiberArts.org/contact. *6:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. Masks required. AnnArborFiberArts@gmail.com.*

★**"The Pessimists": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** Detroit native NYC-based novelist **Bethany Ball** is joined (via Zoom) by memoirist Claire Dederer to discuss her latest book, a witty, biting, darkly funny story about the consequences of unchecked privilege among the entitled students at an elite Connecticut private school and their

films

"Sunday Meads + Movies": Bløm Meadworks. FREE. All ages welcome, but minors encouraged to be accompanied by adult. Proof of vaccination required. Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. 548–9729. 4 p.m.

***Dec. 5:* "Gremlins"** (Joe Dante, 1984). Comic horror-fantasy about a boy who inadvertently unleashes a horde of malevolently mischievous monsters in a small town.

***Dec. 12:* "The Alpinist"** (Peter Mortimer, Nick Rosen, 2021). Documentary about the elusive Canadian daredevil mountain climber Marc-André Leclerc.

***Dec. 19:* "It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). 'Tis the season once again for this classic about a man who gets a second chance at life on Christmas Eve.

***Dec. 26:* "Vintage Ski Movie Marathon"** (various directors).

EMU College of Arts & Sciences/History Department "Detroit Theme Year: Civil Rights Film Series." FREE. Masks required. Student Center Auditorium, 900 Oakwood St. 487–3183. 3:30 p.m.

***Dec. 6:* "Loving"** (Jeff Nichols, 2016). Biopic about Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple who were sent to prison in Virginia in 1958 for getting married.

Fathom Events. Special screenings in local theaters with reduced capacity. For updated schedule, see FathomEvents.com/events. Tickets $12.50 in advance online (recommended) & at the door. **Ann Arbor 20** (4100 Carpenter, 973–8424), **Emagine** (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, 316–5500). Different times.

***Dec. 1:* "West Side Story"** (Jerome Robbins & Robert Wise, 1961). Big screen adaptation of the Leonard Bernstein & Stephen Sondheim musical about star-crossed lovers and rival street gangs. 3 p.m. (at both theaters) & 7 p.m. (Emagine only).

***Dec. 1 & 2:* "Christmas with The Chosen: The Messengers"** (Dallas Jenkins, 2021). Latest episode in the Chosen series focusing on the birth of Jesus, seen through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. Also, a diverse lineup of Christian rock and gospel musicians perform new and classic Christmas songs from the set of the show. 7 p.m.

***Dec. 4 & 8:* "Eurydice"** Live broadcast of the **Metropolitan Opera** production of Matthew Aucoin's evocative 2020 opera. With a libretto by Sarah Ruhl, adapted from her acclaimed 2003 play, the opera reimagines the Orpheus myth from Eurydice's point of view. 12:55 p.m. (Sat.), 1 p.m. (Ann Arbor 20 only), & 6:30 p.m. (Wed.).

***Dec. 5, 6, & 9:* "My Neighbor Totoro"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 1988). Dubbed (Dec. 5 & 9) and subtitled (Dec. 6) screenings of this classic Studio Ghibli anime tale about 2 girls who move to the Japanese countryside and befriend strange and delightful nature spirits. Ann Arbor 20 only. 3 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m. (Mon. & Thurs.).

***Dec. 7:* "La Liste: Everything or Nothing"** (Guido Perrini, 2016). Documentary about a pair of backcountry skiers taking on the tallest peaks in the world. 7:30 p.m.

***Dec. 11:* "The Magic Flute"** Taped rebroadcast of the **Metropolitan Opera's** abridged, English-language version of Mozart's enchanting opera, at once a love story, a whimsical comedy, an adventure filled with sinister deceptions, and a celebration of the power of music. Directed by Julie Taymor. 12:55 p.m.

***Dec. 12 & 15:* "On Golden Pond"** (Mark Rydell, 1981). Drama about a crabby retired professor and his touchy grown daughter who struggle to come to terms with their frayed relationship on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Henry Fonda, Jane Fonda, Katharine Hepburn. 3 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m. (Sun. at Emagine only & Wed. at both theaters).

***Dec 14:* "Macross Plus Movie Edition"** (Shinichirō Watanabe & Shōji Kawamori, 1995). Subtitled screening of this Japanese sci-fi anime about a pair of childhood friends pitted against each other piloting giant fighting robots. 7 p.m.

***Dec. 19 & 20:* "The Nutcracker"** Taped rebroadcast of the **Bolshoi Ballet** production of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet about a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. 12:55 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m. (Mon.)

Michigan Theater. Film screenings every Tues. & Fri.–Sun. Proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required for all patrons over the age of 12; masks required when not seated in theater. Tickets $10.50 unless otherwise noted (children under 12, students, seniors age 65 & older, & U.S. veterans, $8:50; MTF members, $8) in advance online (recommended) & at the door. For updated schedule, see MichTheater.org. Different times.

***Dec. 3:* "Winter Starts Now"** (Warren Miller, 2021). Snowboarding footage from various athletes. 7 p.m. **"Love Actually"** (Richard Curtis, 2003). Feel-good rom-com about half a dozen couples in love, highlighted by a wizened boorish rock star. Alan Rickman, Bill Nighy, Colin Firth, Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson, Keira Knightley. 10 p.m.

***Dec. 5:* "A Christmas Story"** (Bob Clark, 1983). Delightful memoir of a 1940s childhood. FREE. 1:30 p.m.

***Dec. 10:* "Tokyo Godfathers"** (Satoshi Kon, 2003). Harrowing yet heartwarming animated pseudo documentary about a homeless duo in Tokyo who find an abandoned child. 10 p.m.

***Dec. 12:* "Elf"** (Jon Favreau, 2003). Goofy comedy starring Will Ferrell as a man raised as an elf at the North Pole who goes to NYC to reunite with his biological father. FREE. 1:30 p.m. **"To the Ends of the Earth"** Kiyoshi Kurosawa, 2019). Drama about a Japanese travel show host who confronts her fears & hidden aspirations while on assignment in Uzbekistan. Japanese, subtitles. 3 p.m.

***Dec. 17:* "Harold and Maude"** (Hal Ashby, 1972). Dark comedy about the love affair between a death-obsessed young man and a spry octogenarian, with music by Cat Stevens. 10 p.m.

***Dec. 19:* "It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). Sentimental classic about a man who gets a second chance at life on Christmas Eve. FREE. 1:30 p.m.

***Dec. 26:* "Frozen"** (Chris Buck & Jennifer Lee, 2013). Animated Disney adventure fantasy loosely adapted from Hans Christian Andersen's *The Snow Queen.* FREE. 1:30 p.m.

State Theatre. Film screenings every Tues. & Thurs.–Sun. Proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required for all patrons over the age of 12; masks required when not seated in theater. Tickets $10.50 (children under 12, students, seniors age 65 & older, & U.S. veterans, $8:50; MTF members, $8) in advance online (recommended) & at the door. For updated schedule, see MichTheater.org.

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★ *Denotes a free event*

families. *7 p.m., for URL see literatibookstore.com/event/2021–12. Free. 585–5567.*

★**"Improvisation & Encounter: Intercultural Collaboration": U-M Center for World Performance Studies.** Livestream roundtable discussion, facilitated by CWPS scholar-in-residence Ajay Heble, with the acclaimed Canadian soprano saxophonist and flutist **Jane Bunnett,** University of Texas African and African diaspora studies professor emerita **Omi Osun Joni L. Jones,** and California writer **George Lipsitz,** author of his 1998 book *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics* and more. *7–8:30 p.m., for URL preregister at myumi.ch/M9w53. Free. cwps.information@umich.edu.*

★**Scandinavian Music Jam.** *Dec. 13 & 27.* Bruce Sagan leads a virtual acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All instruments welcome, no experience necessary. *7:30–9:30 p.m., for URL email bsagan@msu.edu. Free. (908) 721–2599.*

14 TUESDAY

★**"Sunrise Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Elle Bogle leads a hike to explore how the woods, marsh, and prairie are preparing for the cold months ahead. Bring binoculars if you own them. *8:30–10 a.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings Rd. (north off North Territorial), Whitmore Lake. Free. Space limited; to preregister email boglee@washtenaw.org.*

"Time Horizons and Politics": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. WSU political science professor Kevin Deegan-Kraus discusses (via Zoom) the challenges of long-term policy making. Fourth in a series of 10 monthly lectures. *10–11:30 a.m., For URL preregister at olli-umich.org. $80 (members, $55) for the 10-lecture series. $10 per lecture for members. Membership, $25 a year. 998–9351.*

★**"Open the Prison Doors! Selections from the Joseph A. Labadie Collection": U-M Library Special Collections After Hours.** Curator Julie Herrada leads a virtual tour of library materials relating to prison abolition, prisoner support, and political prisoners. A related U-M Hatcher Library exhibit opens next month. *4–5 p.m., for URL preregister at umlib.us/opendoors. Free. 936–2314.*

★**"Movie Night": Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All age 21 & over invited to discuss (via Zoom) 2 films, John McPhail's 2019 horror comedy ***Anna and the Apocalypse*** and Jake Schreier's 2012 sci-fi comedy ***Robot & Frank.*** *7–9 p.m., for URL email esrabkin@umich.edu. Free.*

★**34th Annual Jewish Book Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Thursday. *Today:* Two Zoom talks. Israel-based writer Jonathan Dunsky is joined by EMU Jewish Studies director Marty Shichtman to discuss his new novel ***The Auschwitz Detective*** (1 p.m.), the 6th book in his Adam Lapid series about a retired Hungarian police detective and Holocaust survivor. And Heather Dune Macadam, a writer who splits her time between the Hamptons and England, talks about her new nonfiction, the haunting ***999: The Extraordinary Young Women of the First Official Jewish Transport to Auschwitz*** (7 p.m.). 1 & 7 p.m.

★**"Pub Sing": Ann Arbor Morris.** Local Morris dancers lead participants in an evening of rousing choruses, drinking songs, sea shanties, and English folk songs, all sung via Zoom. No set program; all participants welcome to lead a song with a singable, reasonably easy-to-learn chorus. *7–9 p.m., for URL email bsagan@msu.edu. Free.*

"Bluegrass Jam Circle": Ann Arbor Senior Center. All musicians invited to bring their acoustic instruments to play bluegrass-style music. Vocalists welcome. *7–9 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Masks required. $5. For updates see a2bluGrass.com.*

"Cheers for the Holidays! Craft Cocktail Evening": Michigan Radio. Michigan Radio *Cheers!* hosts Lester Graham and Tammy Coxen discuss (via Zoom) the regional craft cocktail scene and some unique cocktail recipes from their recent book *Cheers to Michigan: A Celebration of Cocktail Culture and Craft Distillers. 7–8:15 p.m., for URL preregister at bit.ly/holidaycheersonline. $20 (for admission plus a copy of* Cheers to Michigan, *$35).*

★**"Tales and Travels": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Club members and others invited to share (via Zoom) memories and photos from their most adventurous trips. 5–10 minutes per presenter. Also, award ceremony for local citizens and officials for their actions and advocacy on behalf of planet Earth. *7:30–9 p.m., online at bit.ly/adventurersonline. Free. MeetUp.com/Sierra-Club-Huron-Valley.*

The Moth StorySLAM: Michigan Radio. Open mic storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Ten storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 5-minute story on **"Beginnings"**—judged by a 3-person team recruited from the audience. Seating limited; arrive early. *7:30–9:30 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m.), Blind Pig, 208 S. First St. General admission tickets $15 in advance at TheMoth.org beginning a week before each event. (212) 742–0551.*

15 WEDNESDAY

★**34th Annual Jewish Book Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Thursday. *Today:* Two Zoom talks. California-based Girl Security board member Tracy Walder, a former undercover spy, discusses her new memoir ***The Unexpected Spy: From the CIA to the FBI, My Secret Life Taking Down Some of the World's Most Notorious Terrorists*** (1 p.m.). Nobel Prize-winning Duke University chemistry professor Robert J. Lefkowitz shares his memoir ***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Stockholm: The Adrenaline-Fueled Adventures of an Accidental Scientist*** (7 p.m.). 1 & 7 p.m.

"Ari's Best of 2021": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses and offers taste samples of some of his favorite Zingerman's products. This extremely popular annual event usually sells out. *6:30–8 p.m., Zingerman's Deli, 422 Detroit St. $65 in advance only at ZingermansDeli.com/events by Dec. 12. 395–1696.*

★**"A2 Retro Tech Meetup": All Hands Active.** All invited to bring your old tech to show off via Zoom—anything from older computers from the 70s–90s to phones and telegraph equipment, or even a typewriter that hasn't worked for years. *7–9 p.m., for URL see MeetUp.com/AllHandsActive/events. Free, but donations welcome. info@AllHandsActive.org.*

★**"Hypergraphia and Other Failed Attempts at Paradise": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** U-M Stamps School of Art & Design lecturer & poet Jennifer Metsker is joined (via Zoom) by fellow local poet Ellen Stone to discuss her latest collection, which uses manic lyric and prose forms to explore the ecstasy and tragedy of mental illness. *7 p.m., for URL see literatibookstore.com/event/2021–12. Free. 585–5567.*

16 THURSDAY

"Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging": Ikebana International. A certified instructor introduces this Japanese art of flower arranging. Email for instructions on what to bring. *1–2:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, rm. 125, 1800 N. Dixboro. $20 materials fee; metered parking. Preregistration required by emailing A2ikebana@gmail.com. Masks required.*

★**34th Annual Jewish Book Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Thursday. *Today:* Two Zoom talks. Louie Kemp, a close friend of Bob Dylan since childhood, is joined in conversation by local acoustic guitarist (and Observer contributor) San Slomovits to discuss Kemp's new memoir ***Dylan & Me: 50 Years of Adventuring*** (1 p.m.), a collection of intimate stories from a relationship that began at a Jewish summer camp in Wisconsin and includes Kemp's stint as tour manager for Dylan's fabled 1975–1976 Rolling Thunder Revue. 2-time Peabody Award-winning writer **Ira Rosen,** a former *60 Minutes* producer, talks about his new memoir, ***Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes*** (7 p.m.), which is a close look at the ingrained culture of harassment at CBS's popular newsmagazine. 1 & 7 p.m.

★**"My Sister, the Serial Killer": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to join a discussion on Oyinkan Braithwaite's darkly comic 2018 thriller about a Nigerian woman whose younger sister has a curious habit of killing her boyfriends. *6–7 p.m., online at AADL.tv (a YouTube channel). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"The Pastor": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** Award-winning Norwegian fiction writer **Hanne Ørstavik** joins U-M Zell Writers program director Linda Gregerson to discuss (via Zoom) her latest novel, a slow burn about a young female theologian who moves to a remote Norwegian village in the wake of a friend's suicide. *7 p.m., for URL see literatibookstore.com/event/2021–12. Free. 585–5567.*

"Comedy Rumble": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Detroit comedian Brett Hayden hosts this multi-round competition with 90-second performances by area comics. *7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), Comedy Showcase, 212 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 in advance at bit.ly/comedyrumble and at the door. 996–9080.*

"The Winter Wolf": The Penny Seats Theatre. See 3 Friday. 8 p.m.

17 FRIDAY

★**"Protecting Our Watershed: Keeping Our Rivers Clean and Healthy": Ann Arbor Area League of Women Voters Lunch & Learn.** Huron River Watershed Council staffers Kris Olsson and Janet Kahan are joined by Legacy Land Conservancy executive director Diana Kern to provide an overview (via Zoom) on how the watershed benefits us and what educational outreach programs are available. *Noon–1:30 p.m., for URL see LWVwashtenaw.org (click "Calendar"). Free. LunchAndLearn@lwvAnnArbor.org.*

★**"Holiday Hangout": The Neutral Zone.** All high schoolers are invited to listen to music, make holiday decorations, enjoy free food, and take pictures in a photobooth. *4–6 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Free. Masks required. 214–9995.*

★**Living Nativity: Dexter United Methodist Church.** *Dec. 17 & 18.* Outdoor drive-thru nativity scene with sheep, donkeys, and other live animals. Take-home kids activities available. *6–8 p.m., DUMC, 7643 Huron River Dr., Dexter. Free. 426–8480.*

Improv Jam & Show: Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Civic Improv. All invited to play improv games, then watch performances in various styles by area improv groups. *6–9:30 p.m., Civic Theatre, 322 W. Ann St. For the participatory jam, pay what you can; for the show, $15 at the door only. Proof of vaccination and masks required. CivicImprov@gmail.com, CivicImprov.org.*

★**"Holiday Concert": Women's Chamber Chorus.** Ben Gaughran directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in an eclectic program of holiday favorites and upbeat contemporary tunes, as well as love ballads and gospel songs. With pianist Joshua Marzan. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free, donations accepted. Masks required. 665–9271.*

★**"The Most Wonderful Time of the Year": Washtenaw Community Concert Band.** Chris Heidenreich conducts this 80-member volunteer ensemble in seasonal works. *7:30 p.m., Ypsilanti Community High School, 2095 Packard St., Ypsilanti. Free. Masks & proof of vaccination required. wccBand.org.*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

Katie Geddes & Friends: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). An evening of acoustic music hosted by Geddes, a local folksinger with a clear, strong voice. Her repertoire includes songs by everyone from Buffy Sainte-Marie and John Prine to Michael Nesmith and Lennon & McCartney. The lineup also includes **All About Eve,** the vocal trio of Geddes, Deb Wood, and David Vaughn, who specializes in close-harmony pop, folk, and gospel tunes, some performed a cappella. Also, Sam Cooke's youngest daughter **Carla Cooke,** a composer-vocalist whose style, like her father's, ranges across gospel, R&B, soul, and pop genres, and veteran area folksinger–guitarist **Matt Watroba.** *8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.), FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $20 in advance at GreenWoodCoffeeHouse.org or phone 665–8558 (leave a message with your name, performance date, & # of tickets), and at the door.*

"Tidings of Joy: A Classical Christmas": Kerrytown Concert House. Detroit-based soprano **Angela Theis,** an original member of Michigan Opera Theatre Studio, and U-M piano professor Timothy Cheek perform a program of Christmas classics, including "O Holy Night," Pietro Yon's "Gesu Bambino," and other seasonal favorites. Livestream available at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $13–$50 in advance online and at the door. Mask & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. 769–2999.*

"The Winter Wolf": The Penny Seats Theatre. See 3 Friday. 8 p.m.

18 SATURDAY

★**76th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society.** Everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observ-

kids calendar (age 12 and under)

Daily Nov. 26–Dec. 24 (Mon.–Sat. noon–8 p.m. & Sun. noon–6 p.m.): **Santa: Briarwood mall.** All kids invited to sit with Santa or visit from a distance; photos available for purchase. Note: Santa takes breaks 3–4 p.m. Mon.–Sat. only. *Briarwood Von Maur court. Appointments encouraged at simon.com/santa. 769–9610.*

Every Wed. (10 a.m.): **"Virtual Storytime": Ann Arbor District Library.** An AADL staffer reads a story TBA to kids ages 2–5. *Online at AADL.tv (a YouTube channel). Free. 327–4200.*

Every Thurs. (11 a.m.): **"Virtual Baby Time": Ann Arbor District Library.** All infants through 2-year-olds (accompanied by caregiver) invited to this program of songs, rhymes, movements, stories, and other activities. *Online at AADL.tv (a YouTube channel). Free. 327–4200.*

Dec. 2, 9, & 16 (10:30–11:30 a.m.): **"Little Paws Story Time": HSHV.** Stories, crafts, finger plays, and interaction with adoptable cats and dogs. Also, a chance to make a toy or treat for the animals. For kids ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult. $5 (babies under age 1, free). HSHV, *3100 Cherry Hill Rd. $5 per kid. humaneed@hshv.org.*

Dec. 3 (4–4:30 p.m.): **"First Chapter Friday": Ann Arbor District Library.** An AADL staffer reads to kids grades 5–8 the 1st chapter of ***Obie Is Man Enough,*** Schuyler Bailar's poignant young adult novel about a transgender kid navigating transition. *Online at AADL.tv (a YouTube channel). Free. 327–4200.*

Dec. 8 & 22 (1:30–3 p.m.): **"Rescue Reading": Humane Society of Huron Valley.** All ages 6–11 invited to read to adoptable animals. Also, a group read-aloud, and a talk on humane education. Bring several different books to read. HSHV, *3100 Cherry Hill Rd. $10 per kid. humaneed@hshv.org.*

Dec. 10 (5:30–9 p.m.): **"Pets and Pajamas Movie Night": HSHV.** All ages 5–11 invited to watch ***Abominable,*** Jill Culton's 2019 animated adventure about 3 friends who try to reunite a yeti with its family. Also, interact with adoptable pets. Pizza dinner. Wear pajamas and bring a sleeping bag and pillow. HSHV, *3100 Cherry Hill Rd. $35 (additional children, $15).*

Dec. 11 (2–4 p.m.): **"Junior Naturalist: Solstice Celebration": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** All ages 7–11 invited to join WCPARC naturalists Kelsey Dehring, Shawn Severance, and Elle Bogle on a brief walk, followed by a bonfire and chance to share favorite nature moments. Holiday-themed treats and hot drinks. *Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings Rd. (north off North Territorial), Whitmore Lake. Free. Space limited; preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org (registration #821004).*

Dec. 18 & 19 (5 p.m.): **"Amaruq's Journey": Spinning Dot Theatre.** This local children's theater company presents an outdoor production of artist-in-residence Monica Kozakiewicz's short play about rekindling our light and finding our way. Set at sunset around a glowing outdoor igloo, the play is aimed at audience members ages 3–5 and their families. Preceded at 4:30 p.m. by various kids activities. *Wurster Park, 525 W. Madison. $10 suggested donation. Preregister at SpinningDot.org. 585–5134.*

er or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. The count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle centered on Ann Arbor; its 8 regions must be counted in a single day. This makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. Some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. The results are tallied via Zoom this evening after sundown. *All day, visit WashtenawAudubon.org for contact numbers and event updates.*

★**Christmas Bake Sale: St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church.** Traditional Russian and American holiday sweets and some favorites from around the world. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., St. Vladimir, 9900 Jackson Rd., Dexter. Free admission. 475–4590.*

★**Death Cafe.** All invited to join a frank conversation (via Zoom) about death. Hosted by The Dying Year owner Merilynne Rush, Diana Cramer and Rachel Briggs. *10:30 a.m.–noon, for URL email TheDyingYear@gmail.com. Free.*

★**"1st Annual Ypsilanti Holiday Extravaganza."** *Dec. 18. & 19.* Holiday sale of works homemade crafts by 40 Ypsilanti-based artisans. Also, the **Ypsilanti High School choir** performs traditional holiday music along with multicultural folk songs, the youth band Holmes Blue Grizzlies performs a set TBA, and local guitarist-vocalist Eric Moore plays traditional folk and Irish music. The Michigan Firehouse Museum is open. Food vendors. *11 a.m.–6 p.m. (Sat.) & noon–4 p.m. (Sun.), Ypsilanti Freight House, 100 Market Pl., Ypsilanti. Free admission.*

★**"Winter Healing Teas": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance shows examples of and discusses wild plants that can be steeped in hot water and drunk. Tastings. *2–4 p.m., Burns-Stokes Preserve, Zeeb Rd. at the Huron River just south of Huron River Dr. Free. Space limited; to preregister email severances@washtenaw.org.*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Friday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

★**"Christmas Celebration": The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale.** *Dec. 18 & 21.* Broadcast of prerecorded performances of this local choir, led by Darnell Ishmel, singing Christmas favorites and spirituals by African American composers and arrangers. First in a series of concerts through fall 2022 celebrating the group's 50th anniversary. *4 & 7 p.m. (Sat.) and 7 & 8 p.m. (Tues.), for URL see ourownthing.org. Free, donations welcome. 769–4437.*

"Nature Hike in the Cold Full Moon Light": Pittsfield Township Parks & Recreation. Leisurely hike led by Parks & Rec staff, followed by a bonfire. Tea Haus's "hot cocoa bomb" available to take home. Wear sturdy boots and dress for the cold. *5–6:30 p.m., Lillie Park, 4365 Platt Rd. $10 for Pittsfield residents (non-residents, $15); preregistration required by Dec. 15 at pittsfield-mi.gov/recreation. 822–2120.*

Murder Mystery Dinner Show: The Dinner Detective Ann Arbor. See 4 Saturday. 6:30–9 p.m.

★**"TriviaTime! Holiday Special": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local sisters Katie and Abbie throw out themed questions for all ages to answer in the YouTube chat box. *7–7:30 p.m., online at AADL.tv (a YouTube channel). Free. 327–4200.*

Jason Dennie & Friends: Stony Lake Brewing Acoustic Routes Concert. Acoustic ensemble led by singer-songwriter Dennie, a highly regarded local acoustic fingerstyle guitarist and mandolinist who plays an eclectic brand of folk-based music in the tradition of John Fahey, Leo Kottke, and Michael Hedges. *8 p.m., Stony Lake Brewing, 447 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Tickets $15 in advance at StonyLakeBrewing.com; call ahead for day-of-show availability. 316–7919.*

"The Lounge Lizard Bingo Holiday Hour: A Mistle-Toast to the Season!": Kerrytown Concert House. Local composer **R. Mackenzie Lewis** is joined by vocalist **Curt Waugh** to host a lively program encouraging audience participation, in which a variety of popular songs are paired with games that can be accessed on smartphones. Saxophonist Kenji Lee and bassist Aidan Cafferty accompany. Livestream available at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $13–$50 in advance online and at the door. Mask & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. 769–2999.*

"The Winter Wolf": The Penny Seats Theatre. See 3 Friday. 8 p.m.

Comedy Night: Bløm Meadworks. Stand-up showcase featuring sets by **Andrew Yang** & other area comics, with jokes about everything from dating to mortality. *10–11:30 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. $25 preregistration fee for parties of 2–6 (which can be used towards drinks during the event), required in advance at DrinkBlom.com/events. Mask & proof of vaccination required. 548–9729.*

19 SUNDAY

★**Family Nativity: First Presbyterian Church.** Family-oriented exhibit includes crèches (Nativity scenes) by church members. Livestream available: see fumc-a2.org. *11:15 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 1432 Washtenaw Ave. Free. Masks & vaccines required. 662–4466.*

"All About the Trio": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M jazz piano professor Ellen Rowe presents the 2nd in this annual series of programs that covers different aspects of jazz trios. Today, she is joined by vibes player **Cary Kocher** in **"Ring Dem Bells!"** a program of reimagined holiday classics by Cal Tjader, Milt Jackson, Bobby Hutcherson, and Gary Burton. With bassist Paul Keller and drummer Pete Siers. Livestream available at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. *2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $13–$50 in advance online and at the door. Mask & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. 769–2999.*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**"Almost Solstice Mindfulness Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Elle Bogle and Mindful City Ann Arbor cofounder Julie Woodward lead a walking meditation to celebrate the transition into winter and the soon-to-be returning sun. Sturdy boots and layers recommended. *2:30–4 p.m., Fox Science Center, 2240 Peters Rd. Free. Space limited; to preregister email boglee@washtenaw.org.*

★**"The Secret to Superhuman Strength": Lez-Read Book Club.** All queer women invited to discuss (via Zoom) Alison Bechdel's new graphic memoir, a comical chronicle of her lifelong fascination with fitness fads. *4–5 p.m. or so, for URL see website. Free. 686–4956.*

★**"The Cuisines of the Caribbean": Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor.** End-of-the-year dinner party featuring Caribbean cuisine, which fuses elements of African, Creole, Cajun, Amerindian, European, Latin American, Indian/South Asian, Middle Eastern, and Chinese. *4–7 p.m., Ladies' Literary Club of Ypsilanti, 218 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. $10 (members, $5); preregistration required at CulinaryHistoriansAnnArbor.org/program-schedule. a2culinaryhistorians@gmail.com.*

20 MONDAY

★**"Finding Voice: The Journey to Unique, Individual Expression": Huron River Arts Collective Speaker Series (formerly Ann Arbor Women Artists).** Talk by Texas-based artist & art educator Carrie Brummer, whose recent portrait series "My Anonymous Woman" addresses gender norms and perfectionism. *7–8:30 p.m., for URL preregister at HuronRiverArtCollective.org/events. Free.*

22 WEDNESDAY

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Comically Incorrect Holiday": Mind the Gap/The Theater Shop (formerly Emergent Arts). *Every Wed.–Sun. (except Dec. 25), Dec. 22–Jan. 2.* Lighthearted variety show featuring a series of zany vignettes by Mind the Gap's Adrian Diffey and Fran Potasnik celebrating the spirit of the holidays and *No Room at the Big Sleep Inn,* Theater Shop founder Tim Henning's bizarre short comedy about Christmas Eve with a hodgepodge crew of regulars at a Long Island bar. Henning also stars in *Dr. Thuddersplatt,* his one-man skit about an orator with a terrible case of inane malapropisms, Potasnik makes a cameo as a klutzy ballerina, and more. Other performers are Larry Rusinsky, Linda Lee Austin, Wyatt Woodside, and Spencer Tammany. *8 p.m. (Wed.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $20 (seniors & students with ID, $15) in advance at TheTheaterShop.BrownPaperTickets.com, by phone, and (if available) at the door. $4 discount with meal receipt from Haab's Restaurant the day of the show. Masks required. 215–7332, info@TheTheaterShop.*

23 THURSDAY

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Comically Incorrect Holiday": Mind the Gap/The Theater Shop (formerly Emergent Arts). See 22 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

24 FRIDAY (CHRISTMAS EVE)

★**Living Nativity: First Congregational Church.** Outdoor nativity with sheep, a camel, and other live animals. Followed by a **family Christmas pageant** (5:30 p.m.) and a **candlelight service** (8 p.m.) with carols & lessons. *4 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E William. Free. Masks required. 662–1679.*

★**Outdoor Carol Sing: First Baptist Church.** All invited to sing seasonal tunes with others. *4 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington. Free. 663–9376.*

★**Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with congregational carol singing led by the church's chancel choir. *5 & 8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 1432 Washtenaw Ave. Free. Masks & vaccines required. 662–4466.*

★**Lessons and Carols: Northside Community Church.** A kid-friendly celebration of Christmas stories and music highlighted by a singing of "Silent Night" in the round. With pianist Kathryn Goodson and violist John Madison. 6–7 p.m. (music starts at 5:45 p.m.), *NCC, 929 Barton Dr. Free. Masks required. 662–6351.*

★**Christmas Eve Concert: Zion Lutheran Church.** Organist Elgin Clingman and the church's Chancel Choir present a program of sacred music TBA. Followed by a **traditional lessons & carols service** (7 p.m.) and a **candlelight service** (9 p.m.). *6–7 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 994–4455.*

★**Lessons & Carols: Calvary Presbyterian Church.** Scripture readings interspersed with Christmas-themed hymns accompanied by pianist Sandy Huang and other performers TBA. *7 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2727 Fernwood. Masks required. Free. 971–3121.*

★**Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church.** The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington. Free. Masks required. 663–9376.*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Comically Incorrect Holiday": Mind the Gap/The Theater Shop (formerly Emergent Arts). See 22 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

26 SUNDAY

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Comically Incorrect Holiday": Mind the Gap/The Theater Shop (formerly Emergent Arts). See 22 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

29 WEDNESDAY

"The Comically Incorrect Holiday": Mind the Gap/The Theater Shop (formerly Emergent Arts). See 22 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

30 THURSDAY

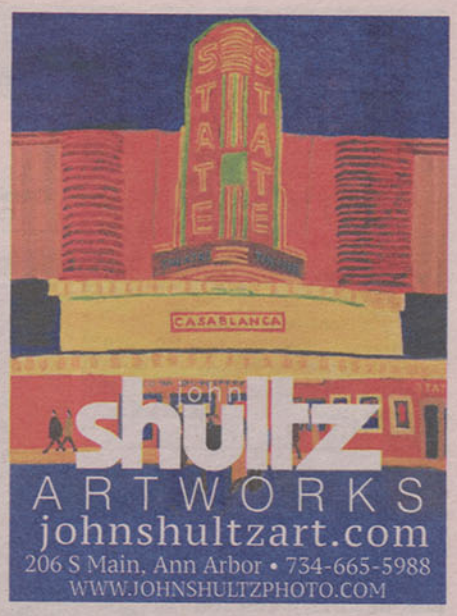
"The Comically Incorrect Holiday": Mind the Gap/The Theater Shop (formerly Emergent Arts). See 22 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

31 FRIDAY (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

"New Year's Eve with Pete Siers": Kerrytown Concert House. Jazz ensemble led by veteran local drummer Siers, with clarinetist Dave Bennett and pianist Cliff Monear. Livestream available at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. *7 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $35–$75 in advance online and at the door. Mask & proof of vaccination (or negative Covid test within past 72 hours) required. 769–2999.*

"The Comically Incorrect Holiday": Mind the Gap/The Theater Shop (formerly Emergent Arts). See 22 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★**"New Ewe Midnight Run."** Noncompetitive 5-km run through the Old West Side and Water Hill neighborhoods to ring in the New Year. *Midnight sharp (course explanation begins at 11:50 p.m.), meet at the corner of Washington & 3rd St. Free. sestho@gmail.com.*



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Classifieds

For Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Silver Spoon Antiques
42 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti (734) 249–3419
Lots of fresh items including a large purse collection. We have thousands of pieces of vintage jewelry as well as purses, hats, gloves, and vintage clothing. We buy.

For Rent

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Effective 2/1/22, you can rent a nice private office at 450 S. Maple Rd, Ann Arbor (next door to Westgate Kroger), I-94 exit 172. They are 10'x13', secure & rent month-to-month, for $300–$500. Parking at the door. Wifi, kitchen, conf. room, mgr. on duty, furnished, utilities, copier, additional storage available, mail service shipments received. Our receptionist can show them to you. Linda (734) 707–5194 or Charles (734) 645–9377.

Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 83? If you can, you could win a $25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (put I Spy in the subject line).

FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: backpage@aaobserver.com or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

MarketingNewAuthors.com (MANA) is celebrating the holidays by offering its various services for parents, students, writers, and authors. And 10% of all earnings will go to MANA's designated charity for 2021—the Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor. Take advantage of all MANA has to offer. Go to its website:https://marketingnewauthors.biz/happyholidays-from-mana-special-gifts-for-you HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the Staff of MANA!

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Email: classifieds@aaobserver.com

Please include your name and contact information.

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

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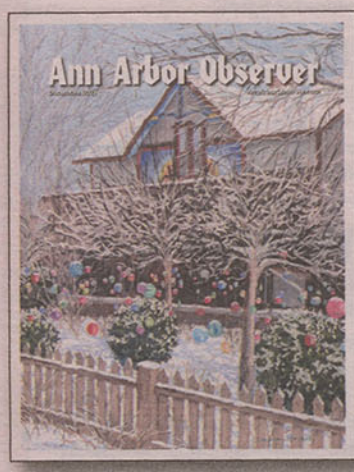

You may call our office to confirm at 734.769.3175 extension 301, fill out the form below and mail it to our office, or email the information to subscribe@aaobserver.com. The confirmation is good for 3 years.

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Thanks for reading the Observer!

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430 S. Main St, Ann Arbor—Destination: Downtown Ann Arbor. Live on S. Main Street in this modern, open, sophisticated 3 bedroom, 3.1 bathroom Ashley Mews Luxury Townhouse. Private, covered front porch. Remodeled from top to bottom with gorgeous first-rate finishes, and custom woodworking. Beautiful, functional kitchen design boasts Italian Scavolini cabinets, built-in Bosch dishwasher, Jenn-Air gas range/oven, Fisher & Paykel refrigerator and oodles of pantry and drawer storage. Huge quartz waterfall prep island with bar seating for 4. Custom built-in dining banquette with seating for 8, wall-mount buffet, bar with beverage refrigerator and bay window with eastern sun exposure. Two story, light filled living room with gas fireplace and outdoor west facing balcony. Spacious, second level primary suite has ample natural light, optimal closet storage systems in 2 walk-in closets, large shower and TOTO Neorest toilet. Down the hall is the 2nd bedroom ensuite, with two big closets and a great view of Main Street. Laundry service and storage closets round out the second level. Gigantic third level study/family room has a downtown view, custom built cabinetry, bookcases and credenza, wet bar with beverage refrigerator and a ton of natural light. Also on the third level is the substantial sized 3rd bedroom with multiple closets, and 3rd full bathroom. Bright, fully finished lower level craft/study/gym space has a daylight/egress window with built-in window seat with storage drawers and display shelving. Chic powder room with elegant tile and quartz countertop selections, and Toto Neorest toilet. Utilitarian and pretty mudroom closet conveniently located by the entrance from the attached 2 car garage. Sleek, Lauzen solid hardwood flooring throughout all living spaces. Wool carpeted steps. Contemporary floor and shower tiles, Euro glass doors, quartz countertops and custom-built cabinetry in all full bathrooms. Seven wall mount televisions. Furnace and central air new in 2017. Absolutely enviable Ann Arbor location. https://mainstreetannarbor.org. $1,275,000. #3284600.

For more information please visit www.JulieSvinicki.ReinhartRealtors.com.

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410 N 1st St. #107, Ann Arbor
Wonderful, light-filled condo with warm industrial feeling, like brand new! Just blocks from downtown Ann Arbor & Kerrytown. Chef's kitchen, hardwood floors, study, private balcony with grill. $499,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444. #3282530

7085 Suncrest Dr, Pittsfield Twp.
Build your dream home! Beautiful tree-lined lot in Rolling Hills Estates. Choose from ranch and 1.5-story options. Chef's kitchen, great room with vaulted ceiling, 1st floor study, screened porch optional. $629,300. Julie Picknell 734-395-8383. #3281726

14 Ridgeway St, Geddes/Arb
A rare opportunity to own a home on Nichols Arboretum! Charming cottage style with 4 beds, 2.5 bath on one of Ann Arbor's most iconic streets. Hardwood floors, fin. walkout. Great location! $795,000. Carolyn Lepard 734-417-2900. #3282185

1740 Tapadera Dr, Riding Oaks Estates
This beautiful 6 bed, 5 bath home has been totally updated! 2-story foyer, library with built-ins, modern eat-in kitchen with large island, spectacular owner's suite. Patio, fire-pit, landscaped. $1,250,000. Ana Skidmore 734-709-6656. #3282217

2025 Valleyview Dr, Ann Arbor
Remarkable, custom built 6 bed, 6.5 bath in terrific Geddes Glen. Stately demeanor & sophisticated spaces merged seamlessly with a high-energy design & floor plan, aligning function with form. $1,585,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3282373

827 Asa Gray Dr. #259, University Commons
Beautiful, sunlit end unit with open floor plan, spacious kitchen, luxurious owners' suite, flexible 2nd & 3rd bedroom. Treetop level views, 9ft ceilings, oversized windows. Great location! $535,000. Matt Miller 734-476-4869. #3279791

113 S Fourth Ave. #6, Downtown Ann Arbor
One-of-a-kind condo in the center of downtown AA, short walk to Kerrytown. Exposed brick, wood floors, wood beams, updated kitchen, wood burning fireplace, 11ft ceilings. Parking space. $650,000. Brynn Stelter 734-277-2531. #3284509

9680 Woodbend Dr, Saline Schools
Beautiful, multi-generational home. Main home has 3 beds including primary suite. Attached 1st floor suite includes half bath, full kitchen, private entrance. Composite deck, 3-season porch. $799,900. James Brown 734-899-7150. #3282775

2275 Highland Dr, The Woodlands of Geddes Glen
Impressive custom home built to the highest standard. Home office with built-ins, gourmet kitchen opens to family room, fin. daylight LL with kitchen & exercise room. Stone patio, landscaped. $1,295,000. Janet McAllister 734-231-3508. #3281176

484 Barton North Dr, Village of Barton Hills
Gracious colonial on 5ac above the Huron River with wooded hills & valleys. One owner for 50+ years. 5 beds, 4.5 baths, marble foyer, curved staircase, painted throughout. In-ground pool, pond. $1,600,000. Deb Helber 734-649-7437. #3283922

11029 Margaret Etta, Dexter Schools
Beautiful 4 bed, 3.5 bath newer ranch on 1ac. Nice finishes throughout, 1st floor primary suite. Walkout LL with 4th bed/office, half bath, kitchenette, rec space. Azek decks, landscaped. $535,000. Jeff Klink 734-260-7483. #3285035

A.I.R. Houzing - Model Under Construction!
Craftsman ranch style: high-end & amenity-focused. 2,175 sq. ft., gourmet kitchens, covered porch. 3 beds, 2 baths, full basements, optional elevators. Twp. taxes, AA schools. Starting at $650,000. Brynn Stelter 734-277-2531. #3276081

505 E Huron St. #307, Sloan Plaza
One of the coolest condos in Ann Arbor! 3 covered parking spaces, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 fireplaces, spacious office area. Generous deck complete with patio furniture and fire pit! $850,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3277270

580 Haverhill Rd, Bloomfield Hills
Quarton-Cranbrook 6200+sf stunning colonial. 5 min walk to Cranbrook Schools. Sprawling layout with tons of flexibility. 6 beds, 4F/2H baths, finished lower level. Premium 1.16 acre lot. $1,470,000. Kirk Glassel 517-812-7038. #3282579

11980 Algonquin Dr, Pinckney
Custom 5 bed, 4 bath with 71ft of frontage on Portage Lake. Sunset views! Open plan, 2-story great room with panoramic views, gourmet kitchen, 1st floor primary. Includes 2 lots & outbuilding! $1,950,000. Scott Bethune 734-417-0786. #3284933

6950 Lingane Rd, Chelsea
Contemporary 3 bed, 3.5 bath surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty on 10ac bordering Waterloo Rec Area. Large windows & decks overlook woods. Pond, pole barn. Min. to downtown Chelsea! $549,000. Kevin Devine 734-904-6560. #3280924

6081 Stonegate Dr, Brighton
Light-filled, 5 bed, 4.5 bath on gorgeous wooded setting! Gracious, open floor plan, 2-story family room with wall of windows, eat-in kitchen, 1st floor study, fin. walkout LL. Deck, 3-car gar. $675,000. Brent Flewelling 734-646-4263. #3284558

405 Hunters Crest Dr, Saline Schools
Remarkable all-brick, custom 2-story with attention to detail. 5 bed, 3F/2H bath, stunning foyer with double staircase, formal dining. 4-car gar, brick paver patio, wooded backyard. Twp. taxes. $925,000. Maura Rains 313-717-7788. #3282257

3 River Pines Dr, Ann Arbor
To be built. Custom craftsman ranch home in picturesque neighborhood. Open floor plan with inviting foyer, floor to ceiling fireplace, impressive kitchen, outdoor area for entertaining. $1,500,000. Brandee Wiseman 734-604-0411. #3279471

330 Meadow Creek Dr, NE Ann Arbor
Timeless elegance in this custom built 5 bed, 4.5 bath, situated high above the Huron River. Unique architectural details, quality finishes, visually stunning open plan, meticulously maintained. $2,295,000. Snow Liao 734-678-4848. #3282173

Arbor Lane - Saline's Newest Community
In the heart of Saline on private, tree-lined setting - only 5 homesites avail. Walk to shops, restaurants & farmers market. Spec home features 3 beds, 2 baths, ranch floor plan - $618,500. From high $400,000s. Julie Picknell 734-395-8383. #3283326

3000 Glazier Way #240, NE Ann Arbor
Stunning, elegant ranch condo with updated floor plan is state-of-the-art, redone & redesigned in 2014. Located in Oakridge, a premium building of 18 units, with private views of woods & nature. $795,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444. #3283881

2307 Hill St, Ann Arbor
Solid brick colonial on a hill in the heart of Ann Arbor Hills. 5 bed, 3.5 bath, sprawling floor plan, huge kitchen, 1st floor study, finished 3rd floor. Wine cellar, deck, heated 4-car garage. $998,000. Carolyn Lepard 734-417-2900. #3284450

2153 Parkview Ct, Woodlands of Geddes Glen
4 bed, 4 bath built with quality & craftsmanship. Dramatic 2-story foyer with curved staircase. Stunning great room with 2-story windows. 1st floor study, upgraded kitchen, solarium, 3-car gar. $1,550,000. Lisa Stelter 734-645-7909. #3282369

2225 Belmont Rd, Ann Arbor
Rare opportunity to live in the heart of Ann Arbor Hills! Rebuilt luxury Mid Century on 2+ lush acres of privacy. Smart home features with 7,310 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms and 6.5 baths. $3,750,000. Lisa Stelter 734-645-7909. #3279464

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ANN ARBOR ESTATE – HURON RIVER FRONTAGE – This 6-bedroom, 4-bath, 2 ½-bath home is one of the Grand Old Estates of Ann Arbor with 5 acres on the Huron River. The grounds are gorgeous with many mature trees. This historically significant home is loaded with all the charm, character, and craftsmanship of a bygone era. Highlights include extensive trim-work, elegant living spaces, paneled den, screened porch, large primary bedroom suite, and plenty of room for all. $2,500,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – This 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath custom-built estate is one of the finest homes in Ann Arbor. The 2 acre setting is breathtaking. The grounds include extensive landscaping, incredible outdoor living patios, and the finest pool you will see. The home was built to the highest standard of design, materials, and craftsmanship. Highlights include gourmet kitchen with professional grade appliances, dramatic living spaces, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. Incredible! $1,995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ARBORETUM AREA – Stunning new construction in the Heart of Ann Arbor. Custom built 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath ranch just minutes from UM Campus and all hospitals. This home is built by Main Street Homes and is loaded with all the quality finishes you've been hoping for. Highlights include: Great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, custom kitchen with professional-grade appliances, screened porch, luxury master suite with spa-like bath and huge walk-in closet, and finished basement with rec room, bedroom, hobby room, and bath. $1,495,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

TRAVIS POINTE – Stunning 5-bedroom, 4-bath, 2 ½-bath custom-built home with view of the #4 Hole at Travis Pointe Country Club. You will love this setting at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac with mature trees, large backyard, and paver patio. The interior is stunning. Highlights include two-story family room with fireplace, gourmet kitchen with cherry cabinets and prof grade appliances, first den with cherry built-ins, luxury primary bedroom suite with two walk-in closets, and finished lower level. You will love this home. $999,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BARTON HILLS AREA – Stately 7-bedroom, 4 ½-bath turn-of-the-century farmhouse on a park-like 1.85 acre setting right across the street from Barton Hills. This home is loaded with all the charm and character of a time gone by with wide trim and hardwood floors in most rooms. The interior highlights include a remodeled kitchen, oversized living and dining rooms, family room, and great flex use options with bedroom layout. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – Incredible, like new 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home built in 2017 on a private 2.1-acre lot in Dixboro Farms. The setting is perfect on a quiet cul-de-sac lot that features extensive landscaping and an oversized yard. The interior is stunning. Highlights include hardwood floors throughout the main level, great room with fireplace, white kitchen with quartz counters and stainless-steel appliances, hearth room, and luxury first floor master suite with walk-in closet and spa-like bath. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 4 ½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot in one of the most popular neighborhoods in Saline. You will love this location just minutes to schools, shopping, and Ann Arbor. The lot is 1.1 acres with a huge backyard, great deck, and professional landscaping. The interior is loaded with upgrades. Highlights include two-story living room, cherry kitchen with high-end appliances, open concept family room, first floor master suite, and gorgeous finished basement. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

TRAVIS POINTE – Hard to find 3-bedroom, 3 ½-bath ranch overlooking the #2 green at Travis Pointe Country Club. The setting of this home is fantastic with a panoramic golf course view from the multi-space patio. The interior of the home features a Great Room with vaulted ceiling, custom kitchen with granite counters, study, spacious primary bedroom suite, and full finished lower level with multi-use rec space. You will love this home! $684,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – This stunning 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath ranch overlooks Brookside Golf Course and has been wonderfully updated, meticulously maintained, and is loaded with a long list of amenities including a home automation system and home theater by Paragon Sight and Sound. You will love the setting with vista golf course views and great outdoor living. The interior sparkles and features a great room with fireplace and wall of glass, remodeled kitchen, nice master suite, and incredible finished basement. $629,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LANSDOWNE – Completely updated 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial backing to Lawton Elementary. One of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods with easy access to UM campus, downtown, schools and shopping. The setting is fantastic with extensive landscaping, fenced backyard, and patio. The interior features a remodeled kitchen, oversized family room with fireplace, nice formal living and dining rooms, great primary bedroom suite, large kids' bedrooms, and a finished basement. $595,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

THE UPLANDS – Wonderful, custom-built colonial on one of the largest lots in the neighborhood. The Uplands is one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods with low Scio Township taxes and easy access to schools, shopping, and UM campus. This home is gorgeous and features hardwood floor in all main level living areas, two-story living room, cherry kitchen with granite and stainless-steel appliances, open concept family room, and luxury primary bedroom with vaulted ceiling, walk-in closet, and attached bath. $589,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

EBERWHITE ELEMENTARY – Hard to find 4-bedroom, 2-bath Ranch in one of the most popular neighborhoods on Ann Arbor's West Side. This home is just perfect. The exterior features great landscaping, brick paver patio, and private backyard. The interior includes a spacious living room, updated kitchen, primary bedroom suite with attached bath, and 3 nice sized additional bedrooms. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

OLD WEST SIDE – This historic 3-bedroom, 1-bath two-story has the prime location you've been hoping for just a short walk to Downtown Ann Arbor and adjacent to Jefferson Market. The home features wonderful charm and character with hardwood floors throughout, large living room, spacious formal dining, updated kitchen, and nice sized bedrooms. $454,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

THURSTON ELEMENTARY – Wonderful 3-bedroom, 1-bath, and 2 ½-bath home walking distance to Thurston Elementary. The location of this home can't be beat walking distance to Thurston, Starbucks, and NCRC. The setting is fantastic with a nice backyard and extensive landscaping. The interior features a great open-concept living space, kitchen with granite counter tops, family room with fireplace, nice sized bedroom, and lower-level rec room. $424,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MILAN – This 4-bedroom, 3-bath contemporary rests on 4.7 acres backing the Saline River just outside the City of Milan. This park like setting is just a dream with mature trees, fenced backyard, walking paths, gardens plus a 4 car heated detached garage. The interior is fantastic and features Great Room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, updated kitchen with marble counters, primary bedroom with attached bath, and finished walkout basement. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CHELSEA – This wonderful 2-bedroom, 1 ½-bath ranch features fantastic views of Inverness Country Club golf course and access to all sports North Lake. You will love the setting with mature trees, three season porch, and great yard. The interior features a living room with fireplace, large kitchen, dining area, and good sized bedrooms. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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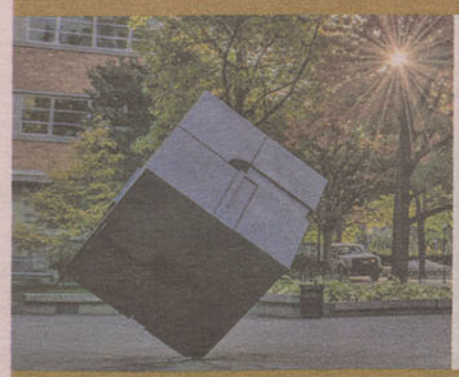

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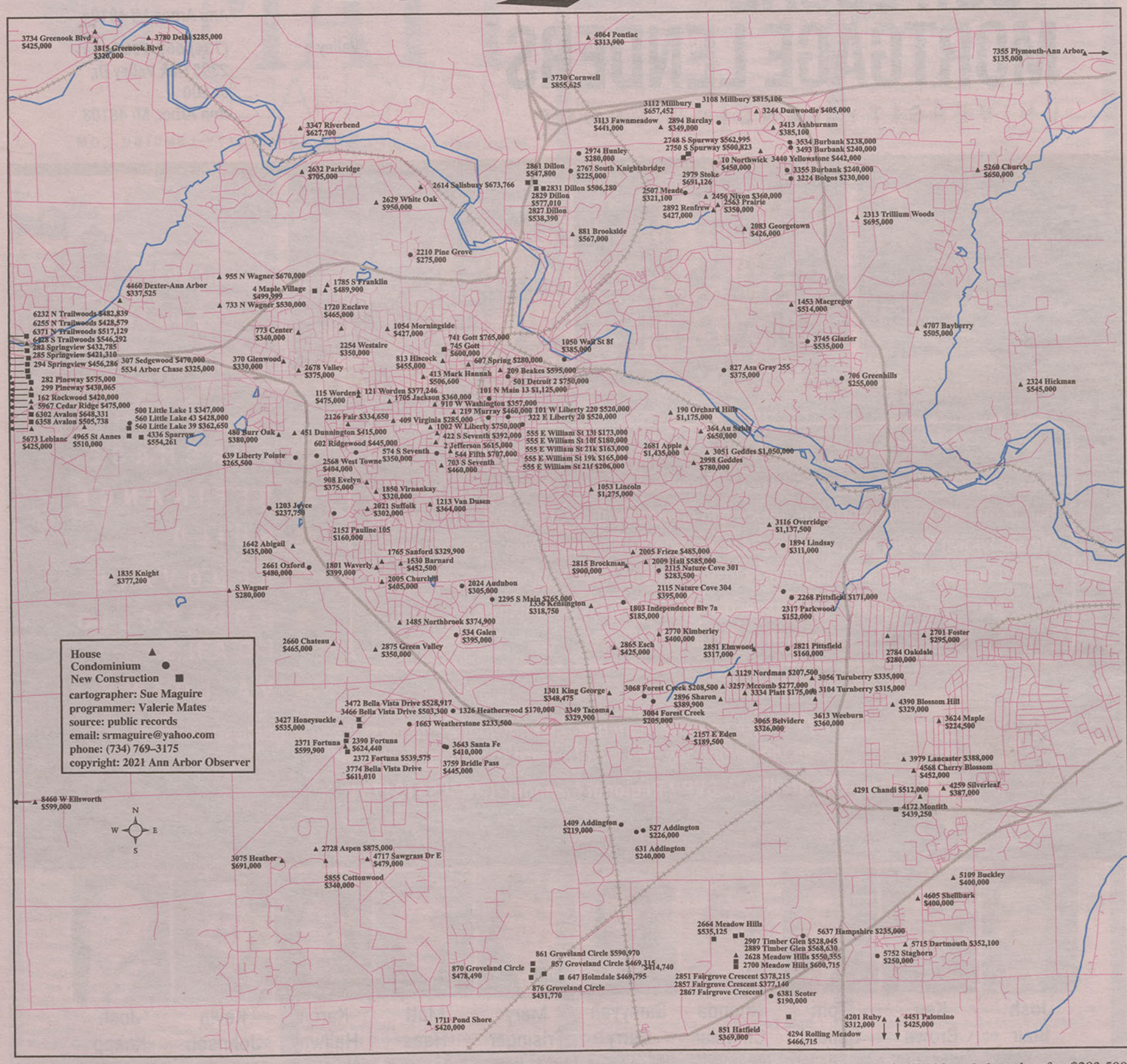
OCTOBER 2021

HOME SALES



Single-family homes selling for less than $300,000 still outnumber those priced at over $1 million, but it's getting close. Just ten of those comparatively affordable homes appear on this month's map, all but two of them in the city of Ann Arbor.

As usual, the least expensive homes cluster in the city's southeast quadrant. In Stoneybrook (formally known as Arbor Oaks), 2157 Eden Ct. came in at $189,500, a bit below the over-$200,000 examples cited last month. Near Packard and Platt, 3129 Nordman in the Springwater subdivision sold for $207,500. Springwater wasn't always a welcome thing: when East Ann Arbor installed water and sewer lines in the 1950s, underground springs drove the project so far over budget that the formerly independent city had to accept annexation to its larger neighbor.

The exceptions are exceptions for a reason: in Water Hill, a fixer-upper at 607 Spring fetched $280,000. Though super-cute, 409 Virginia in the Eberwhite neighborhood was also super-small, fitting two bedrooms and one bath into less than 800 square feet. It sold for $285,000.

All but one of the six million-dollar sales also are in the city. In Ann Arbor Hills, what had been a classic brick ranch gained second-floor dormers and a new garage; now with four bedrooms and as many baths, 2681 Apple Way tops the list at $1.435 million. Off Geddes near the Arboretum, 190 Orchard Hills Ct. commanded $1.175 million. A bit farther east, 3051 Geddes got $1.05 million.

The only condo in the group, atop One North Main, sold for $1.125 million. In the Kerrytown neighborhood, kiddie-corner from Zingerman's Deli, a Brownstone Condo went for $750,000.

By comparison, sales in two outlying condos seem like terrific bargains. In Nature Cove, near St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, neighboring two-bedroom, two-bath units are on the map this month, one for $395,000 and the other for $283,500. Both came with academic pedigrees—the former was owned by onetime U-M VP Fawwaz Ulaby, the latter by ISR cofounder Bob Kahn—but Ulaby's was recently remodeled.

At University Commons off Huron Pkwy north of Geddes, 827 Asa Gray sold for $375,000, but only after lingering on the market for sixty-three days. Like Nature Cove, the complex is popular with retired academics, but also like it, it's an elevator building with high homeowners association fees—in this case, $682 a month.

—Sue Maguire & John Hilton

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Memorials

JEAN LEDWITH KING

Jean Ledwith King, an Ann Arbor attorney who championed gender equity for millions of women in education, employment, politics and sports, and helped to lay the foundation for Title IX, the federal antidiscrimination law, died October 9th, 2021. She was 97.

In 1970, King filed her most significant educational action against the University of Michigan, co-authoring a complaint filed with the U.S. Department of Labor for sex discrimination in admissions, financial aid, employment and athletics.

The complaint sparked a federal investigation and led to reforms at many colleges and universities across the nation. When U-M refused to comply with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's demands to increase women's admissions and provide gender equity in athletics, it became the first university in the country to have federal grants withheld.

That effort sparked nationwide reforms for hiring and recruiting female faculty and staff. It was also the beginning of improvements in salaries, promotions, maternity leaves, athletics and scholarships for women at U-M.

In 1972, the creation of Title IX, the federal civil rights law banning sex discrimination by educational institutions that received federal funding, made the policies the law of the land.

Her petite stature and curly hair belied her fierce confrontational style and enormous intellect. She waged battles for equality from her kitchen table, her living room and in beauty parlors. She used her family's grocery budget and often drafted her three young children to stuff envelopes and wear sandwich boards to support her various causes.

"I'm a bomb-thrower," King once said. "You can't negotiate when you have nothing—no power and no respect. I have many times assembled women who are afraid and taught them how to represent themselves. Women are afraid of confrontation. They have been so punished for standing up for themselves."

King confronted sex discrimination early in life. Working as a secretary at U-M while she was a student in the 1940s and '50s, King saw the low pay and unequal treatment of female employees.

As an activist in the Ann Arbor Democratic Party, she was frustrated by the lack of female delegates at party conventions. She decided a law degree would help her level the playing field and enrolled in the U-M Law School in 1965—one of 10 women in a class of 320 students—where she encountered more discrimination.

"The law professors were all men," she recalled. "In Civil Procedure I sat every day in the third row and always put my hand up to answer a question. I never once got called on."

After graduating from law school in 1968 at the top of her class, she opened a small law office on Liberty Street in downtown Ann Arbor, where she spent decades using lawsuits, speeches, letters and phone calls to break down barriers for women in employment, education, politics and 33 sports—from water polo to weight lifting.

"She had a keen sense of outrage and we learned to never put up with things that were wrong," said Nancy King, Jean's oldest daughter.

King filed a Title IX complaint in 1974 against the Kalamazoo School District for sexist stereotyping in public school textbooks. Two months later, after reading a story in the *Boston Globe* about the complaint, the publisher, Houghton Mifflin Co., published a 135-page supplement revising the books.

That same year, a call from a Grand Rapids–area father, whose eighth-grade daughter wanted to be on a track team, launched King's career as a champion of women's participation in sports. She filed a Title IX lawsuit in federal court that led to the formation of a mixed gender team.

In 1979, King challenged Michigan State University's practice of giving female basketball players inferior travel and meal accommodations and won a restraining order in federal court that forced the university to provide equal accommodations.

Carol Hutchins, U-M's women's head softball coach since 1984, the winningest coach in U-M history and the winningest softball coach in NCAA history, was a member of that MSU team.

"Jean King was a pioneer of pioneers," Hutchins said. "She has left an enormous footprint on women's athletics, and we are all forever indebted to her and her pursuit of equity for women. As Jean taught us early in the fight for Title IX: The law only works if you use it! She taught many of us to use the law and we are obligated to continue her passion."

As her reputation grew, a phone call to a coach or an administrator replaced lawsuits.

King's political activism also led to sweeping changes. In 1970, King and five other women founded the Women's Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party. It was the first women's caucus in a major party and by 1976 had achieved an equal division of men and women on the Michigan national delegation. The national Democratic Party adopted the gender equity rules four years later.

From 1992-95, she cochaired the federal Glass Ceiling Commission, that documented the shortage of women and minorities in top management positions.

"We emphasized the disadvantage of not being a white, straight, right-handed, male Presbyterian," King said of the commission's findings.

Angered by the lack of adequate restroom facilities for women in schools and concert halls, including U-M's legendary Hill Auditorium, King also waged successful "potty parity" campaigns over the years using medical studies linking the higher rate of bladder infections in women to the lack of restrooms. While targeting inequality in sports and education, she also fought sex discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace, addressing issues from dress codes to breastfeeding.

"Jean King's legacy is enormous and it's more than just the cases she won," Bernice Sandler said in a 2011 interview. "She educated a lot of women, girls, men and parents about what sex discrimination was."

Sandler, an educational psychologist who was rejected for a faculty position at the University of Maryland in 1969, conducted research on gender discrimination that inspired King's complaint against U-M and created the framework for Title IX.

Sandler became known as "godmother of Title IX." She died in 2019.

Lynn Rivers, a former law clerk who was encouraged by King to make a successful run for Congress in the early 1990s, was impressed by her generosity.

"I watched her take case after case for groups and individuals who could not pay," Rivers said. "She repeatedly risked the financial viability of her practice in order to address an inequity. Jean has an impressive list of accomplishments and an intellect that is humbling but it is her heart that makes her so special."

King was the first female lawyer Lore Rogers met when she was working as a law clerk while going to law school in the early 1980s.

"She was direct in her speech and brooked no nonsense," said Rogers, staff attorney for the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board. "She both scared me and inspired me. When standing on principle and pursuing equal rights seemed fraught with peril, Jean's work served as a lodestone for me. Do the right thing and fight hard, that is what she stood for. She inspired so many other women attorneys to do the same.

"We cannot possibly measure the contributions she made because it is still happening today through the threads of social justice that run back to her."

King was born March 16, 1924, in Chicago, the older of two daughters. Her intellect and independence were encouraged by her mother, Nettie, a teacher, women's sports coach, and chief psychologist at the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Center, and her father, William, a director for the Young Men's Christian Association.

At U-M, she met John King, a naval architecture student. In 1943, she was suspended from school for hitchhiking to Pittsburgh with him for Thanksgiving weekend. The couple married, forming the partnership that would last their lifetimes, and she was allowed to return to school. King earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1948; a master's in history in 1953, and a law degree in 1968 from U-M.

She was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1989, received a Champion of Justice award from the State Bar of Michigan in 2005, in 2008 was one of 30 women honored by the Veteran Feminists of America, and in 2020 was one of the 10 women from Michigan profiled by USA Today for outstanding achievements in the preceding century. The Women's Lawyers Association of Michigan named an annual award for her.

Her husband, John, died in 2011. She is survived by her son Andy King, daughters Nancy King (Timothy Babb), Sally Wilson (John Wilson), four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held privately for the immediate family. All who wish to celebrate Jean's life are invited to make a donation in her name to the University of Michigan Law School, the National Women's Law Center or to a nonprofit social justice organization of your choice.

—Maryanne George, former Free Press *staff writer*

Originally published by the Detroit Free Press on October 12, 2021.

MARIE LEBLANC

85, January 1, 1936–October 17, 2021. Marie was born to Lea (Cormier) Thibodeau and Albert Thibodeau on January 1, 1936. She grew up on South St. in Ypsilanti where she attended St. John's Catholic School, later moving with her family to their farm on Munger Rd. She attended and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1955.

Marie took pride in her work as the first female bargaining committee person at the Ford Sheldon Rd. plant. She was zealous in taking good care of "my people." Marie loved music from musical cast recordings to 1970s country and had a beautiful singing voice. She expressed her creativity through decorating, cooking and ceramics. She loved the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and Lake Michigan, all-you-can-eat crab legs, and, even to the end, never turned down ice cream. Her survivors include her children: Anita LeBlanc, Cheri LeBlanc-Driscoll, Laura (Jim) Dana, Dave "Beau" (Kathleen) LeBlanc and Gary LeBlanc; grandchildren Courtney (Brian) Lambert, Michael Dana, Gabrielle LeBlanc and Zach LeBlanc; and great grandchildren Gavin and Leo Dana and Georgia Lambert.

She was preceded in death by her siblings and their spouses: Arnold (Wanda) Thibodeau, Virginia (Marlen) Reber, Ed (Irene) Thibodeau, Don (Flo) Thibodeau, Ernest "Allen" (Irma) Thibodeau and Velma "Ann" Bellow. A host of nieces and nephews survive her.

She and her companion, Clarence "Clancy" Reynolds, doted on all their indoor and outdoor pets. Their beloved tuxedo cat, Pierre, was a loyal, loving friend as Alzheimer's and dementia respectively robbed them of their health and independence. Clancy preceded Marie in death in September 2019, as did her son-in-law Bob Driscoll in December 2020.

The family asks that memorial donations be made to the Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, 51299 Arkona Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 or at friendsofmichigan.org.

JOHN CHARLES MENDLER

John Charles Mendler was born June 8,1944 in Altoona, PA to Charles and Betty (Dillen) Mendler and died October 16, 2021.

John met the love of his life, Janet, while attending Northern Michigan University. John was passionate about the Upper Peninsula and jazz music and hosted the campus evening jazz segment on the radio. Janet fell in love with his smooth voice and endeavored to find him. Much to her surprise, he stood 6'4" to her barely 5' frame. He admired her never ending newsy line of questions and spunkiness. They were married for 54 years and passed away within 6 months of each other. Together, they were founding members of the Great Lakes Chapter, Volvo Club of America (GLC/VCOA) and highly active in the Historical Society of Michigan.

John took great pride in owning Mallek's Service Station in Ann Arbor at the Jackson-Dexter Avenues triangle for over 45 years. People often stopped in thinking it was a nursery as the outside was always adorned with many flowers and greenery. Once they met John and his dedicated employees, visitors became loyal long standing customers. John was a gentle giant—thoughtful, caring, generous and a true gentleman.

John is survived by his sister Nancy Abramson; Nieces Kristin (Andy) Graves, Scout Nellis, and Julie Nellis; Nephews Kevin (Nancy) Koehler, Eric (Diane) Koehler, Michael Nellis and Rob Nellis; Great Nieces Lindsay and Alexandra Koehler, Clare and Ava Johnson; Great Nephews Kyle Koehler, MacAllister and Gavin Graves.

A memorial will take place at Mallek's Service with a date to be determined in the next few weeks. Memorial contributions can be made to: GLC/VCOA, Attn.: Jeff VonHolten, 3093 Meadow Hills Dr., Middleville, MI 49333. Online condolences can be given at www.phillipsfuneral.com.

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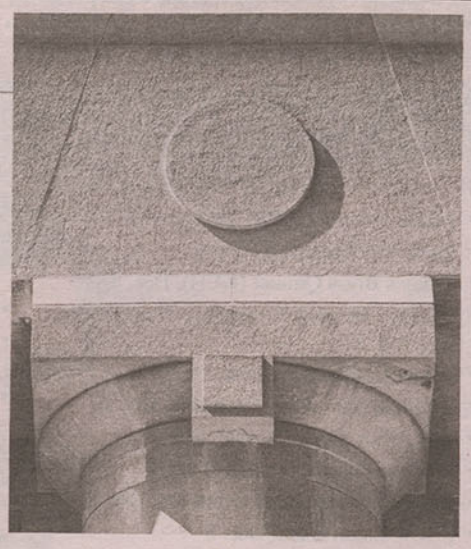
i spy

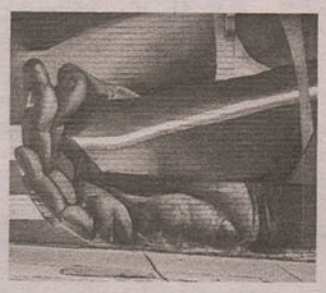
by Sally Bjork



The Messiah returns

Russell Nichols spotted last month's image along the new bikeway at 200 S. First St.—or, "as we old-timers think of it, the Kiwanis Building," says Dan Romanchik. Barb Tester remembers Saturdays with a "line of customers outside the door waiting to enter at the stroke of 9." It's now home to AI company Clinc, and "the walls have been transformed into this very innovative mural," Tester continues. The murals commissioned by the Ann Arbor Art Center "have been a wonderful addition to the walls of the city," adds Ginny Weingate. Susan Pollans agrees, saying she's "never seen so many beautiful murals in the neighborhood."

"By Raleigh, NC artist, Taylor White," writes David Karl, the mural at First and Washington "represents the relationship between humanity and technology." The use of "tools" in White's artist statement inspired the clue—*Modern Tools*. "It's new and exciting," says David, "but as White's mural [suggests], let's not lose our humanity for the sake of technology."



Karl won our drawing among twenty-four correct entries; he will enjoy his $25 gift certificate at Zingerman's. To enter this month's contest, use the image and clue above and send your answer to the address below.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

We received 180 entries identifying …Wait. Before business: last month's update, meant to be a humorous look at when the nit someone's picking is not a nit, may have come across as mean-spirited. Lelia Raley was a good sport, but we apologize nonetheless. Now, back to our regular programming.

We received 180 entries correctly identifying the Fake Ad for Godzillow on page 54 of the November issue. Godzillow appeared as a real estate website for houses of worship converted to residential space.

"This month's fake ad was beyond clever," wrote Melissa Milton-Pung, who we hope, for obvious reasons, never wins our contest. "I'm an architectural historian and work with adaptive reuse projects …When I saw the Godzillow ad … I was so excited to see the cool projects that other people have been doing. But—you got me!"

Ken Koorhan wrote, "after I looked up what a ley line ("extra **LEY**") was, I wondered if the line might lead to the lair where Godzilla was hibernating."

Ley lines, according to Wikipedia, are "drawn between various historic structures." They also—and this is the fun part—may or may not exist. Further research quickly involves "earth energies" and "pseudo-science" and "the belief that leys were established by prehistoric communities to guide alien spacecraft." This is why we usually limit our research to Wikipedia.

Janine Shahinian is our winner, which makes this month's Fake Ad very difficult to find. She's donating her prize to Kiwanis's Warm the Children campaign.

The Fake Ad and I Spy books make great gifts! AnnArborObserver.com/books

To enter this month's contests, send email to backpage@aaobserver.com or mail to 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. All correct entries received by noon, December 10, will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive $25 gift cards or certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

Thanks!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our November drawing!

The following readers won a **$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

November winners:
Alicia P. and Mark E.

If you would like to be entered in the December drawing for a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 74, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by December 10.

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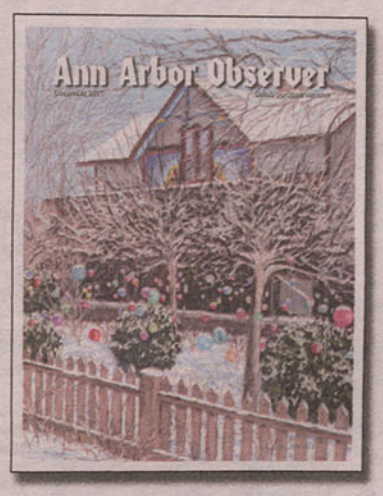

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➤Reviewed in this issue. See p. 58.

All events are in person unless otherwise noted.

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- Takács Quartet (UMS), Dec. 3
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 3
- Today's Brass Quintet (KCH), Dec. 4
- Handel's *Messiah* (University Choral Union), Dec. 4 & 5
- Dexter Community Band, Dec. 5
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 5
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, Dec. 5
- Michigan Pops Orchestra, Dec. 5
- University Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 6
- U-M Concert Band, Dec. 8
- Ypsilanti Community Choir, Dec. 9
- "An Organist's Christmas," Dec. 10
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 10
- "A Boychoir Christmas," Dec. 11
- "Candlelight Concert" (EMU Music), Dec. 11
- Dexter Community Orchestra, Dec. 12
- Christmas Choir Concert (NCC), Dec. 12
- George Shirley & Olivia Johnson (KCH), Dec. 12
- Women's Chamber Chorus, Dec. 17
- Washtenaw Community Concert Band, Dec. 17
- Angela Theis & Timothy Cheek (KCH), Dec. 17
- *Virtual:* Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 18 & 21
- Local churches' "Lessons & Carols," Dec. 24

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

See **Nightspots**, p. 58, for shows at the Ark, Blue LLama, Blind Pig, & other clubs.

- Don White (singer-songwriter), Dec. 3
- Melissa Morgan (jazz), Dec. 5
- ➤Nefesh Mountain (bluegrass), Dec. 7
- Claudia Schmidt (acoustic), Dec. 10
- "Allman Family Revival" (Live Nation), Dec. 11
- Katie Geddes & friends (folk), Dec. 17
- Jason Dennie & friends (folk), Dec. 18
- Pete Siers Ensemble (boogie-woogie), Dec. 31

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Junk: The Golden Age of Debt* (U-M Theatre), Dec. 2–5
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (U-M Musical Theatre), Dec. 2–5
- U-M Dance BFA show, Dec. 2–4
- *H.M.S. Pinafore* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan), Dec. 2–5
- *Frozen* (Saline Varsity Blues), Dec. 3 & 4
- *A Year With Frog and Toad* (EMU Theatre), Dec. 3–5, 11 & 12
- *The Normal Heart* (U-M Basement Arts), Dec. 3 & 4
- *An Almost British Christmas* (Theatre Nova), every Fri.–Sun. Dec. 3–Jan. 2
- *The Winter Wolf* (Penny Seats), every Thurs.–Sat. Dec. 3–18
- *Much Ado About Nothing* (U-M RC Players), Dec. 3 & 4
- *Give 'Em Hell Harry* (Encore Musical Theatre), Dec. 8–12
- *Treasure Island* (Fr. Gabriel Richard), Dec. 9–12
- "Ballet Through the Eras" (EMU Music & Dance), Dec. 9
- *The Short & Suite Nutcracker* (Randazzo Dance), Dec. 10–12
- U-M Impact Dance fall show, Dec. 10
- "One Small Step for Can" (U-M Groove percussion), Dec. 10
- *The Nutcracker Suite* (Dance Classics), Dec. 11 & 12
- *The Nutcracker* (Dance Alliance), Dec. 11 & 12
- Salto Dance Company winter showcase, Dec. 11
- *Uncle Vanya* (U-M RC), Dec. 12
- *The Comically Incorrect Holiday* (Mind the Gap/The Theater Shop), every Wed.–Sun. Dec. 22–Jan. 2
- *The Nutcracker* (Bolshoi Ballet broadcast), Dec. 19 & 20

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Comic Zach Martina, Dec. 3 & 4
- Satirist David Sedaris, Dec. 7
- Comic Mike Geeter, Dec. 10 & 11
- The Moth StorySLAM, Dec. 14

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Jewish Book Festival, Nov. 21–Dec. 16
- Chelsea Hometown Holiday, Dec. 3–24
- Dexter Historical Society Christmas at Gordon Hall, Dec. 3 & 4
- Concordia Boar's Head medieval festival, Dec. 3–5
- Manchester "Christmas in the Village," Dec. 3 & 4
- Waterloo "Christmas on the Farm," Dec. 4 & 5
- Saline "Home for the Holidays," Dec. 4
- Akshara Rasa Festival, Dec. 11
- Saline Historical Society "Christmas at Rentschler Farm," Dec. 11 & 12

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- *Virtual: Cheers for the Holidays!* hosts Lester Graham and Tammy Coxen, Dec. 14
- Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig, Dec. 15

Family & Kids' Stuff

*See our **Kids Calendar**, p. 72 for most kids events.*

- Ford Lake "Duck Walk," Dec. 4
- Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 18

Miscellaneous

- Downtown "Midnight Madness," Dec. 3
- U-M Prison Creative Arts Projects art auction, Dec. 4
- Christmas Dance (Ski Club), Dec. 9
- "Holiday Hustle" 5-km, Dec. 11
- Local churches' "Living Nativity," Dec. 11, 17–19, & 24

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Virtual Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 11

RICK TAYLOR

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